



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH ARANYA AGRICULTURAL ALTERNATIVES

Aranya Agricultural Alternatives is looking for volunteers who can lead and execute some of its projects. Aranya is an environmental and developmental organization providing permaculture guidance to communities, organizations, governments and other national and international agencies and creating sustainable livelihoods since 1999. Aranya hosted the International Permaculture Convergence (www.ipcindia2017.org) in Nov-Dec 2017 to provide a platform for our farmers and urban citizens to get exposed to global thinking.

'Aranya' is a Sanskrit word for forest. The forest is a self-regulating ecosystem, with the ability to sustain itself in the present and in the future. It is the source of the guiding principles of agriculture. Thus, we chose the name Aranya Agricultural Alternatives to encapsulate the tradition of a regenerative nature. We aim to provide alternative solutions to industrialised and chemical agricultural practices.

We have strongly believed that a lasting change can happen only when everyone comes forward to do their bit for the community. This is your opportunity to join this belief system.

Please read through the following information to know of long-term volunteering opportunities available:

Volunteering opportunity # 1

Place	Aranya Permaculture Farm, Zaheerabad
No. of volunteers required	2-3
Volunteers' role	<p>You will have the unique experience of working on a 20-yr old Permaculture farm that's a success story of turning a dry land into a green haven. You will get to observe and be involved in applying various permaculture practices on the farm. Get exposed to Indian traditional farming knowledge and various permaculture techniques adapted to the local context.</p> <p>You will also have the pleasure of conducting the farm tour for the visitors. We will conduct two farm tours in a month.</p> <p>We are looking for volunteers who have exposure to Permaculture. If you have applied Permaculture, it'll be an added benefit. Read more about Aranya farm and permaculture on this link.</p>
About Aranya farm	It is a 20-yr old, 11.5 acre Indian tropical dryland permaculture farm and a beautiful example of how to regenerate a dry, bare land and turn it into an abundant food forest. The food forest and annual crop fields are entirely rainfed. There are over 300-350 different species of trees giving tropical



	<p>fruits 365 days a year. Recently, solar system and pump have been established which have diversified some of the planting even more.</p> <p>The farm has been designed by the co-founders of Aranya Agricultural Alternatives Padma & Narsanna Koppula and is a place of experimentation that's still evolving and always welcoming, with one motto: (almost) everything should come from the system and remain, as long as possible, within the system.</p> <p>Aranya Farm is also a learning centre and chosen venue for the various Permaculture-related courses conducted by Aranya. We conduct courses like Introduction to Permaculture for farmers and urban dwellers, Permaculture Design Course and similar other courses.</p>
Duration of volunteering	<p>You are welcome to volunteer for any length of time. We encourage applications for at least 45 days. Please pay INR 200 per day towards your food expense. If you wish to come for a period shorter than 45 days, you need to contribute INR 250 per day towards your food.</p> <p>You will be provided with a tent for accommodation against the deposit of Rs. 500/-. If you have a tent, you are welcome to bring it.</p>
Work hours	<p>Life at the farm is hard but very rewarding. You get to live with like-minded people who believe in sustainability and regeneration and learn permaculture hands on. Work hours on the farm vary depending on the time of year and individual circumstance. But generally, we expect the volunteer to put in at least 6 hours a day.</p>

Volunteering opportunity # 2

Place	Aranya Permaculture Patashala, Badangpet, Hyderabad
No. of volunteers required	1-2
Volunteers' role	<p>You will work on a one-acre urban Permaculture farm that will serve as a model for Aranya and its students. The designing for the plot is complete and you get to implement the design elements. This is your chance to apply Permaculture in urban context under the guidance of the experts.</p> <p>You will get to participate and support implementation of permaculture at different urban farms in and around Hyderabad.</p>
About Permaculture Patashala	The Permaculture Patashala at Badangpet is Padma and Narsanna Koppula's dream to promote Permaculture among urban dwellers and encourage them to take their first step towards sustainable living.
Duration of volunteering	You are welcome to volunteer for any length of time. We encourage applications for at least 45 days. Please pay INR 200 per day towards your food expense. If you wish to come for a period shorter than 45 days, you need to contribute INR 250 per day towards your food.



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Volunteering opportunity # 3

Place	Bodhi School, Narayankhed, Sangareddy district, Telangana
No. of volunteers required	3
Volunteers' role	<p>This is a never-to-miss opportunity for you to be a part of inducting Permaculture in our academic system. As part of applying Permaculture in schools, you will get detailed guidance from Aranya on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building grey water management systems • Vegetable production • Nursery raising • Seed saving and many other Permaculture related activities <p>Bodhi school has 5.8 acre garden in their premises. You will lead teaching permaculture in the school to the students as well as teachers. Your role will involve leading this project and executing it.</p>
About Bodhi Society	<p>The Bodhi School is in Anthwar village, near Narayankhed, a small town in Sangareddy district of the state of Telangana. The Bodhi School caters to 297 students from pre-K to class 7 in Narayankhed and surrounding villages. The Bodhi School's mission is to provide high-quality education to children from impoverished backgrounds in the Narayankhed region of Telangana in India. To know more, visit http://www.bodhisociety.org/</p> <p>Bodhi school is spread over a land of 8 acres. Narsanna Koppula, the co-founder of Aranya Agriculture Alternatives had started permaculture on that land before the school was built. Since 2017, Aranya is supporting permaculture activities at the farm and we are looking for volunteers to take this initiative further.</p>
Duration of volunteering	3-6 months starting June 2018
Provisions to the volunteers	You will be provided accommodation and food in the school campus.
Work hours	We expect the volunteers to put in at least 6 hours a day. On some days you may end up putting fewer hours.

Volunteering opportunity # 4

Place	Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
No. of volunteers required	5-6
Volunteers' role	You will be working with Aranya who is partnering with the AP Govt. to reduce/mitigate drought related distress. As part of the project, you will get detailed guidance from Aranya on the following aspects:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and water conservation • Water resource management • Protective irrigation • Livestock development/ small ruminants development/backyard poultry with local birds • Community managed seed systems (CMSS) • Nursery raising for bio-mass plantation • Soil health management <p>In each village 250 acres have to be developed on dryland drought mitigation strategies. You will be working on any of the above mentioned projects and provide technical guidance to the farmers. This will involve showing demonstrations, working with the community and supporting the NGOs staff in executing their activities.</p>
About Andhra Pradesh Drought Mitigation Program (APDMP)	<p>The AP Drought Mitigation Project (APDMP) is a program designed to mitigate the adverse impacts of droughts in 5 districts viz., Anantapur, Chittoor, Kurnool, Kadapa and Prakasam.</p> <p>Aranya Agricultural Alternatives is one of the partners working with the AP Govt. in 36 villages (12 mandals) with the help of 4 facilitating agencies/NGOs in Kurnool with over 10,000 farmers.</p>
Duration of volunteering	<p>At least 45 days.</p> <p>We welcome experts who can ably lead and execute these projects. Indian interns are welcome to make use of this opportunity to learn and apply. Interns need to pay INR 250 per day towards food and accommodation.</p>
Provisions to the volunteers	<p>You will be provided accommodation and food in the village if you volunteer for at least 45 days.</p>
Work hours	<p>We expect the volunteers to put in at least 6 hours a day.</p>



We hope you are excited with these opportunities. Please read through the following guidelines with great detail to ensure that your experience is mutually rewarding and a positive learning experience filled with joy.

- You need to submit your résumé to aranyahyd@gmail.com along with the application form.
- Every day brings a possibility to learn, so soak in the learning and apply whatever you learn.
- Before doing anything new, please consult the project/site leader and gain agreement. It's easier to do projects when they are agreed upon. You will be asked to present details of your work done.
- Please inform of your leaves planned during the volunteering period. We encourage you to inform us at least a week before you plan to take leaves.
- Living with a community requires respect, teamwork, commitment, communication and a certain amount of flexibility. You will be working with people from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences.
- You will be encouraged to participate in daily chores as you will be a part of the family!
- We strictly follow the working hours, so please respect your commitment.
- No drugs, no alcohol policy has to be followed at all the volunteering locations.
- Basic hygiene is very important in India. You need to wash your hands before and after eating. In India, people typically eat with hands.
- You need to have an internationally accessible health insurance before you come to volunteer.
- If you have any contagious disease, please refrain from volunteering.
- Dress modestly during your volunteering experience to avoid any uncomfortable situations. Please remember that you will be working with farmers and locals who usually wear Indian clothing.
- Limited WIFI will be available in some of the volunteering locations. You can procure Jio portable 4G device for WIFI. Additionally, if you are a foreign national, please take a local number so that you are reachable.
- The food served will primarily be vegetarian and simple Indian meals. If you have any dietary restrictions or requirement, please mention it to us beforehand.
- Bring essentials like sleeping bag, blanket, two bed sheets, torch, sunglasses, a stole/scarf/hat to cover your head, mosquito repellent, water bottle and any other items which will help you be more comfortable during your stay with us.
- Before reaching any of the volunteering locations, you need to arrive at Aranya office on a working day. If you are a foreign national, you will also be required to fill a Form C at the office.
- You will be asked to make an advance payment towards your food and accommodation expenses.

Be a part of positive change.

Submit the application form by clicking on this [link](#). If you have any questions or concerns, write to aranyahyd@gmail.com