

## **European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Activities:** **project description –** **Sunnahof Tufers**

**Voluntary Project:** Sunnahof Tufers (PIC 946094739)

**Number of volunteers:** max. 4

**Project Topics:**

- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Inclusion - equity
- Access for disadvantaged

**Contact (where to send the application):**

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**Hosting organisation:**

Sunnahof Lebenshilfe Vorarlberg GmbH  
Göfis, AUSTRIA

**Supporting/Coordinating organisation:**

aha – Jugendinformationszentrum Vorarlberg  
Dornbirn, AUSTRIA

**Project description:**

Sunnahof is a limited liability company and an affiliated company from an association founded 1967, called "Lebenshilfe Vorarlberg". Sunnahof is situated in Göfis, near Feldkirch.

Our general principle is “people need people” no matter if you have any disabilities or not. Our work focuses on the uniqueness of each human being and the belief that the society depends on each individual person and each individual person depends on the society.

Sunnahof is an institution for people with intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems from the age of 16 until retirement. Our core objective is to prepare this target group for the regular employment market. Therefore Sunnahof provides four biodynamic working areas with naturalistic working conditions.

Those four working areas are:

- agriculture
- plant nursery
- carpentry
- gastronomy with a farm shop

All together we engage over 60 people with intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems. Furthermore Sunnahof offers a housing service for 28 people with disabilities which include different possibilities of assistance.

Our staff is educational and subject-specific trained a basic requirement for our concept. It enables us on the one hand to handle an agriculture with 60 hectare arable land and a lot of animals, to produce a variety of wooden products only per order, to receive about 5000 visitors per year in our gastronomy and to grow and sell 500 different species of plants.

And on the other hand, it qualifies us to accompany people with disabilities on their way to the regular employment market.

### **Tasks of the volunteer:**

The volunteer will work five days a week, 34 hours a week including German course. S/he will have two days holidays per month.

In terms of Service and learning opportunities, the volunteer will have a varied role and therefore gain invaluable experience and skills for working with people with light intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems. On that course they will learn a lot about their ways of living

as well as, disability issues and issues facing the local community. They will also learn how to work along with people with disabilities and how to increase their skills and promote their independence. Furthermore, they will gain access to the work as a farmer, carpenter, gardener and gastronome.

The role of the volunteer will be to work along with our employees and people with intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems, mainly **in ONE of our four working areas (agriculture, carpentry, plant nursery or gastronomy with a farm shop)**. The volunteer will be encouraged and accompanied to support people to tackle a task for themselves, not to do things for them, in order for them to realize their potential and abilities. They are also supporting our employees during their daily work. The volunteer's work will be guided by our professional employees. Also, the volunteer will get the free space to create and implement own ideas. We are welcoming new and creative ideas, which we believe adds new perspectives to our organisation.

There are lots of different things to get involved with as a volunteer at Sunnahof. Every working area has its own charm, learning possibilities and challenges. Independent from the working area the volunteer will be involved in the work and attendance of people with intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems. That's the core area of the training. Here is an extract of possible tasks:

#### Agriculture:

The work is characterized by mainly outdoor jobs and substantial work. Examples are mucking out the barn, intersperse hay, feeding the animals, maintaining work, and processing hay.

#### Plant nursery:

Also the work in our nursery plant is branded with substantial work and outdoor jobs. Examples for possible tasks are repotting, weeding and plant reproduction.

#### Carpentry:

The carpentry requires accurate work and craftsmanship. Engineering wood boxes, drilling, sanding and mounting are main tasks in our daily affairs.

### Gastronomy and farm shop:

Customer contact and friendliness are key qualifications for this working area. Tasks can include such as washing the dishes, cleaning, accept and deal with deliveries and so on.

Each volunteer will work in one area during the year.

We also expect that our volunteers do a little project at Sunnahof. The aim is to get in a intensive contact with people with disabilities, knowing each other a little bit better. The volunteers did projects like: creating a French week with special meals, make specific Christmas cookies or playing games to come close to nature by every sense.

### Volunteer profile:

We are looking for open minded people who want to collect a lot of experiences in the daily work with people with intellectual disabilities and behaviour problems. We expect that the volunteer bring in a high motivation for the substantial work, especially for the work with people with disabilities. Moreover the volunteer has a stabilized personality so that they are able to encouraged and accompanied people with disabilities to realize their potential and abilities.

### How to apply:

Please write a mail with your CV (incl. picture of you, date of birth,...) and motivation letter to [susanne.sparr@aha.or.at](mailto:susanne.sparr@aha.or.at). After the application deadline we will have selection rounds with the staff! During those selection rounds it's possible that we will contact you for further information through mail, phone calls or Skype!

**Don't forget to add the name of the project when you apply for it!**

### Living conditions:

The volunteer will live in a house next to the host organisation with the other volunteers. S/He will have a room on her/his own and share a bathroom and kitchen with others. The infrastructure with trains and buses is easy and quick and s/he will probably also have a bicycle at his/her disposal. The volunteer will receive a ticket for free use of any public transport in the whole region of Vorarlberg during the complete time.

### **Support during the voluntary project:**

S/He will have regular meetings with her/his mentor in our organisation to talk about problems or critical incidents among other things. Additionally s/he will have a junior mentor (=former EVS volunteer) at her/his side to support her in situations of crisis. The Supporting/Coordinating Organisation will hold a monthly evaluation meeting with all volunteers in Vorarlberg. In the end of the project we will together with the volunteer evaluate the project, what s/he has learned and which competences s/he has gained and as a result fill out the Youthpass. Furthermore there will be a final personal evaluation meeting with the Supporting/Coordinating Organisation.

### **Related links:**

Website: <http://www.sunnahof.or.at/>

Project description on the European project databank:  
[https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/placement/17559\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/placement/17559_en)