

Joyce n fun



Skiathos, Greece
2021

Dear partner, friend and/or future volunteer, this is a last minute call for volunteers from as soon as possible until May 20th, as we had two cancellations.

Let us give you a little more details about what you would be doing here before letting you dive in the more general information of the rest of the infopack !

First of all, you need to know we live in the nature, in a mountain, on the magical island of Skiathos, Greece, 5km away from the town (6000 inhabitants in the winter). We need people who can stand to be in the middle of nowhere, who love nature (and it's bugs and animals) and who doesn't need to be entertained all the time (on the other side, we have a good 4g connection :)).

- ◆ We just had the funding of a seminar approved (yeahaaa!), we will have the joy to organise a Permaculture course in May (before you leave) and you will be a big part of its organisation.
- ◆ Every volunteer has their own living space, in a van or a little trailer. Those need to be worked on to become livable, so that will be your first mission. Until it's done (during the warm season), we all live in tents (on real mattresses) but have a container where we can all sleep in beds if needed.
- ◆ We are now designing the straw-clay house where we'll be living in the winter (when and if you feel it is too cold in your van/trailer). We will start building it soon and will enjoy doing it with your help!
- ◆ Our main project and reason to be is for people to meet each other, we are a hub where people from all over the world meet, discover and learn from each other. Because of the pandemic, there are less travelers but you will at all times be at least 3 volunteers living with part of our team (a mom, a teenager and a baby) .
- ◆ In case of a lockdown, we are "locked" in 8000sq meters of nature, surrounded by forest and mountains. You won't feel locked :)
- ◆ We will need help in our website and social media renewing, do you like taking pictures ?
- ◆ More activities are described in the Info-pack... Enjoy !

With love,

Ilektra



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Dear Future Volunteer, Thank you for taking the first step into your new adventure, you have already taken one of the hardest steps and that is actually contacting hosting organisations !

We hope that this info pack will contribute to increase your understanding of our ESC vacancy and that it will give you useful information about our association and the environment we offer to our volunteers.

In this info pack you will have all the information about the upcoming ESC placement that will take place in the beautiful, paradisiac island of Skiathos, in Greece (if you have seen Mamma Mia... That's the one !).

You will have the opportunity to develop your skills, grow as a person, learn independence, live the Greek culture and make an impact in the local and wider community.

Next school year (2021-2022) might be as special as the previous one but we are ready to make the bets out of it. Are you ?



Sounds fun? Come and join our team and let us help you on your new and exciting volunteer adventure !

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ABOUT THE VACANCY

Our volunteers become a part of our family the moment they arrive (and even before, through our communication by email and social media).

They have the opportunity to share our everyday life, meet a lot of traveling guest, help with everyday tasks in the farm and in the office.

The volunteer can choose to work with different target groups: kids, young people, volunteers, animals...



The Host Organization guarantees minimum of 30 and maximum of 40 working hours per week for the Volunteer. The number of hours worked per day may vary depending on the tasks related to specific events but a total number of hours worked per week shall not exceed 40. Our volunteers have 2 days off per week as well as two days/month and ten days around Christmas time . (Language lessons, mentor meetings, etc. are included in the schedule).



The general schedule for the volunteers is 6 hours of daily activity/ week, 5 days per week, it comprises activities in the farm (taking care of the plants, tinkering, building, etc), activities with children and with the local coordinator inside the community, planning of a personal project, weekly mentoring, dissemination activities, language learning, personal development activities and digital activities when needed.

The tasks will be discussed with the volunteers, the mentor, and the tutors.

Pro-active behavior and responsibility will be encouraged.

In the office, our volunteer will:

- Work on our website www.joycenfun.gr and create a database of our volunteers. (no previous skills needed) Write blog articles by telling her own stories, the stories of volunteers and projects from the area
- Help prepare a better info pack
- Help preparing the training for our local youth ready to volunteer abroad. We will do that in collaboration with your sending organisation, so keep your ears open and take notes when you are yourself being trained !

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- Prepare a schedule and apply it about our presence on Social Media
- Prepare a growth mindset pack to be completed by our volunteers (you too) with our mentor to get to know yourself better and raise your self confidence (most of the material was already prepared by our previous volunteer)
- Help with the managing of the Agape's hub project with worldwide travelers coming to see us all year long
- Help us choose the next ESC volunteers as one might come to live with us before your departure
- Participate in ESC and Erasmus+ promotion, organize and support the promotion of the activities (newsletters, blog, leaflets and other kind of advertisement)
- Help with the diffusion and dissemination of Youth Information in the High School
- Helping in everyday tasks
- When possible, organize and support voluntary activities for young people, elders, children, sports, cultural...
- Learn Greek language and culture
- Suggest and realize her own ideas



Depending on the weather and the volunteers' preferences, they can spend most of their time working outside. All the members of the association do some physical work - cleaning, kitchen work, gardening, maintenance... Volunteers devote part of their working time to these tasks.



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ABOUT YOU

We are looking for volunteers who are dynamic, creative, sociable, patient and who know what they want to do.

We'd need someone who is a "team player" but who also can take initiatives and wouldn't need someone looking over her shoulder. We allocate projects every week and have a meeting every morning to speak of the tasks of the day but your schedule is quite free, so you'll be able to decide when to work and what to do with your free time (the island is perfect for hiking, walks in the forest or on the beach, etc. and has a variety of sport and cultural activities.)

You have to be motivated, willing to learn greek, able to work in a team, be sociable, flexible and creative: we would like to host people with interesting hobbies, with their own ideas and open to different cultures.

Strong motivation, willingness to see and to do something new, curiosity about the world and other cultures are part of our group culture. Be ready to step out of your comfort zone !

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Our volunteers gain valuable experience in project management, non-formal learning, working in an international team, boosting those skills and their future employability. By being in a mix team between a lot of different countries, they gain even more cultural awareness and spread love and inter-cultural acceptance.

While participating to the activities, they also improve their professional skills as web designers, journalists and child entertainers. They also learn to take care of plants and to build and craft with natural and upcycled material.

The volunteers are encouraged to take initiatives and are actively involved in the preparation and the follow-up phases of the activities. and, by living in the same place, they have to learn how to live with other people and share every day tasks.

More specifically, the volunteers coming for this project :

- will develop skills in the youth work, teamwork, resource management and peer education fields
- will learn to speak in public
- will improve their digital skills: web designing, image, video and text processing
- will acquire knowledge of different methods of non-formal education like agile learning, discussion moderator, energizers or team building
- will develop attitude to work in an international team
- will acquire social skills as group building, crisis prevention etc. by managing different group of people
- will develop entrepreneurial attitude, by proposing and implementing their own ideas.

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ABOUT THE EVERY DAY LIFE

The volunteers live in our farm with two members of the organisation, our dog and our cat any many other people as we always have a lot of people coming over, mainly couchsurfers

(<https://www.couchsurfing.com/people/joycenfun>) and workawayers

(<https://www.workaway.info/en/host/989672248777>) Of course our volunteer's friends and family are always welcome too.



During the warm season, we all sleep in tents, on real mattresses. When needed, we can move to our vans and trailers. We will build a strawclay house together that we will all share in the winter. We have an outdoor kitchen, a camping shower, 2 compost toilets (if you don't know what those are, please look it up before replying) and we plan on updating all those with your help. The office has a couple desks and enough room for us to sit all together and has a Wi-Fi connection. In the rest of the farm, you'll depend on your phone to connect on the internet.



The volunteer is responsible, together with the rest of the team, for keeping the farm clean. A timetable for cleaning purposes is organized between all the volunteers along with the rest of the chores (cooking, dishes, etc)

Part of the team moved in the mountain a couple months ago and we started the creation process. Every volunteer has had the opportunity to bring their own little (or not so little) project while we

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are transforming Joy'ce Kingdom and aiming to create together the basic minimum to live in nature as we want our eco-centered leisure and learning hub to be as natural as possible and facilitating honest, pure human encounters far away from the city.

You can hike to Skiathos town (5km) in about one hour (count about 1.5hour for the way up) or come with us by car as we go a couple times a week, when needed. Our little island of 12km long has more than 60 gorgeous sandy beaches and more than 200km of hiking trails

The volunteer will have 3 meals a day. It will be the responsibility of the team to prepare meals for everyone. Every week, we go together to the super market where we buy food for the whole week. The grocery list is created by everyone during the week and we go back to the supermarket as often as necessary. The meals are common and are cooked by the team, according to a schedule made together, depending on who wants to cook or prefers not too.



Each volunteer will be given 5 Euros/day for personal expenses (pocket money) that will be given at the beginning of every month by bank transfer.

Each volunteer will be provided CIGNA health insurance, a complimentary Insurance which covers the volunteers for the entire duration of the ESC project. The purpose of the CIGNA health insurance plan is to indemnify the insured volunteers for reasonable and customary expenses which will take place during the ESC period.

CIGNA health insurance provides access of a database of healthcare professionals, and it is entitled to provide reimbursement of health care expenses, by the terms of CIGNA health insurance agreement (you will find detailed information in EACEA brochure).





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ABOUT US :

Joyce 'n' Fun is a social cooperative on the island of Skiathos, Greece.

Our most important goal is the promotion of intercultural, interfaith, inter-generation and inter-civilisational constructive dialogue with all the possible means. our main target group are young people from 0 years old to young adults until 95 years old and also all the educational community that is involved in the education system: parents, teachers, counselors, social workers and others.

Young people from all over the world have been coming to us to facilitate workshops for the island's youth and share their special talents.

Our manager is a teacher in the local high school and that fact allows us to be in direct contact with the teenagers of Skiathos and their family. It is a also a way for us to estimate which children have less opportunities (for economic or social reasons) or are in risk of abandon school. A big percentage of the children of Skiathos (about half of them) come from families of immigrants and, while most of them are very well integrated, some still seem to ostracize themselves.

Working and playing with the children and teenagers of Skiathos is a wonderful opportunity for all of volunteers to find again that lost child we all have in us. Sharing their knowledge of their own country's habits and culture with the children and other volunteers helps them create a better identity as a citizen of their country but also of Europe. Our organization's actions promote active citizenship, intercultural diversity and social involvement while we stimulate social and cultural tolerance to form an open minded civil society.

Some of our previous projects :



- The "The 4 season of a Greek island" activities were aimed for teenagers from 12 to 16 who have already created a YouTube channel and online newspaper to show the life on Skiathos in the winter and in the summer.
- The "Playing and learning... together !" workshops for the smaller children from 5 to 11 (crafts, theater play, music, sport etc) are open to the public during the summer.
- In September 2017, the "Joyce 'n' Food for all" activity started in cooperation with the island's schools. Our volunteers accompany the children in the discovery of local fruits and vegetables, they learn how to take care of the earth and its products and they encourage the interaction between the children and the older generations who are eager to share their knowledge and garden.

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ABOUT SKIATHOS (THROUGH THE EYES AND WORDS OF OUR VOLUNTEERS)

Skiathos – a dream come true

First the shock...

When I first saw Skiathos, I was speechless. For real. We all know these travel brochures with the crystal-clear sea, the blue sky with the yellow, almost smiling sun and no clouds, right? - just perfection. And we all know it's photoshop. But deep inside we do hope to discover a place just like that one day. But we don't want to keep the hopes too high. Well, let me tell you this: For Skiathos you should keep your hopes high because *those* brochures ain't lying, its incredible! You won't believe your eyes at first. Although after walking around in the small, picturesque town, it'll slowly sink in: Yes, this is paradise. But what you've seen so far is just the beginning. Only when you go to Koukounaries beach you will understand, what the perfect beach looks like. Only when you walked through the lovely smelling, cooling pine forest and then finally see the more lonely, northern beaches, you will understand what real beauty and peace are, **Nature**. Treat yourself to some traditional Greek food in one of the taverns at the beaches. Then lay back, relax and enjoy Greece's greenest island.

Now, close your eyes and imagine smooth, spring-green hills in front of you, the friendly burning sun above you kindly kissing your face; the hot sand below you gently massaging your feet and the refreshing sea in your back, inviting you for a long swim.

You can do that in **66** different places - that's how many **beaches** this small idyllic island proudly counts.

The town itself is quite small, only 6.000 people. Close to the car-free main street Papdiamantis , the houses and small streets look very traditional, white and blue painted occasionally the Greek flag hanging from a window lightly dancing in the sea breeze. In case you should discover a feeling of hunger within your stomach you will not need more than 30 seconds to find a place to eat. The core of Skiathos-town has been conquered by many traditional taverns, restaurants, snack points or mini-markets. There is plenty of choice, you can sit at the old or the new port, in the main street or on a terrace with sea view. You can find family-run restaurants which have a more personal touch to them.

But **Beware**, if you don't like touristic places or you are a fast walker, don't come here in the summer! Whenever another ferry from the mainland arrives you feel like the island is being invaded and simply *has* to sink! So if you want to come before or after the main season, it's also very enjoyable, maybe even more. The mountains with the hiking trails are nicer when it's not too hot, the landscape looks beautiful anyway and an occasional bath is possible. Also you will see locals outside and children playing on the streets, which is nowhere to be seen in the season.

If you fancy relaxing by the water, having a wine while seeing the sun disappear and the moon rise, in the Plakes area in town you find beautiful rocks in the water which are surprisingly comfortable, during the night also romantic. During the day you can go swimming from these rocks if you are careful, you can sunbathe and just enjoy the beautiful view. And the best part about the small town: You are anywhere you would possibly want to be within minutes!

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Things to do. You have loads of choices what to do. At most beaches, i.e. the Megali Ammos and Koukounaries beaches you have different **water sport options**. If you want to see the famous Lalaria-beach you can make a **day-trip** with one of the small **boats** leaving from the sweet old port. Lalaria has snow-white, nice and round stones and is one of the top 3 beaches in Greece concerning 'clearest waters'. You will also see the Tsougrias beach on a deserted island just in front of Skiathos (town). And it is for sure one of the most beautiful beaches you have ever seen. Nature-wise it's just incredible and the atmosphere is really special.

The medieval town **Kastro** which is in ruins at the present day, is a very nice place to go either on foot, by car, quad, scooter or boat (same trip as Lalaria-beach). Over a long period until it finally was abandoned completely in 1827, the inhabitants suffered under the control of either the Venetians, Ottomans or byzantine empire. Suppressed, exploited and enslaved. Today you need a lot of imagination to feel all that at this open, peaceful, beautiful place, over the years taken back by the nature. Other boat tour options available.

If you want to see even more, there are 2 other islands close by, included in the **Sporades**: Skopelos and Alonissos. **Skopelos** has a sweet old town with small streets and traditional shops. If you've seen **Mamma Mia**, you will recognize many places from the film, such as the chapel, the beach,.. **Alonissos** has a beautiful **campsite** just a stone's throw away from the sea. If you go swimming during the night when the moon's not too bright you can see the photo-plankton around you, glowing and glimmering. Both islands are not only definitely worth a visit but also something one shouldn't miss. They are very good accessible by boat from Skiathos.

If you are into **hiking** you will find **24** good marked **paths** to go on Skiathos, easy to find and with beautiful views, passing monasteries, small chapels and beaches. The shortest is about 1 ½ h and the longest 7 h. You choose:) Especially the hike from town to Kastro I would highly recommend, as it leads you through stunning nature and peaceful places. But be careful, you should wear hiking boots or at least closed shoes with good grip.

The beaches to choose from are stony or sandy, calm or more wild, small or big, crowded or deserted, easy accessible or more adventurous accessible,... And I can ensure you, it will be so satisfying, being on such a small island and yet wherever you go you find a new beauty spot whereas other people go on holiday to see only one comparable nice place. But here, you have so many.

Some of the names to remember: Koukounaries, Eleni, Mandraki, Elias, Agistros, Kriffi Ammos, Lalaria, Vromolimnos, Tsougrias. <https://www.greeka.com/sporades/skiathos/skiathos-beaches.htm>

Right before the season: Greece is not only sunny and bright and warm. Rain and storms attack every now and then in autumn and winter time. This year there was even a good amount of snow. So these incidents destroy wide parts of the island. The beaches are full of seaweeds and trash, the path to the beach is not passable. The sombreros of nice reed are mostly destroyed too, the taverns at the beaches look like ruins. But when the first tourists step foot on the island, everything looks pretty, as if nothing had happened. Houses are painted newly, the steps have clean white ledges. But every year all of it needs to be done again. And again. And again. Try to appreciate what effort had been made so that you feel welcome and comfortable.

So, please go **enjoy** my favorite island in Greece. I guarantee you won't regret it (no legal responsibility taken for that if you go in July or August).

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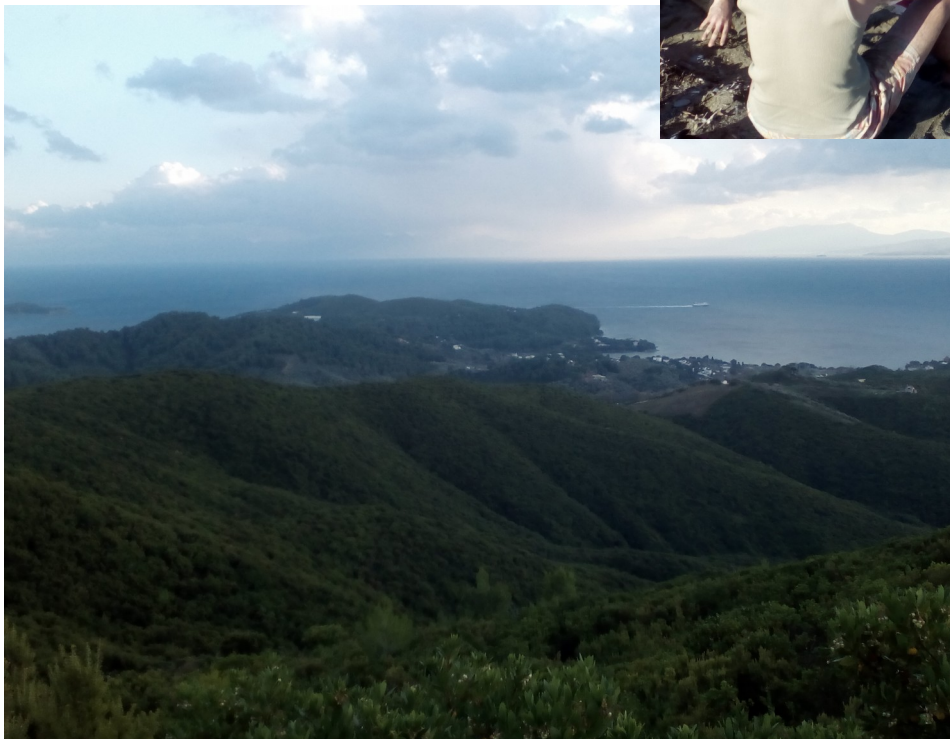


HOW TO REACH US

To come to Skiathos, the easiest way is to see what days there are flights from Athens to Skiathos and arrive this day in Athens. It might be a little more expensive than the bus and the boat but it's way easier. There are now two companies coming to Skiathos, Olympic air (<https://www.olympicair.com/>) and Sky express (<http://www.skyexpress.gr/>) . They have both very good prices right now, so it might even be the cheapest way.

On the other hand, if you want to see Athens first and stay there a couple days, you can take the bus to Volos and see when there are boats here : <http://openseas.gr/el/index.html> or, closer to Athens, there are boats from Agios Konstantinos and Mantoudi (and they have a bus that leaves from Athens especially for those boats. Call the Alkyon agency, at the Kaniggos square, 210 3832545, 210 3810861 for details for Ag. Konstantinos boat and check http://anes.gr/index_en.php for the Mantoudi one). We also have boats from Thessaloniki (the <http://openseas.gr/el/index.html> website is good for all those routes). .

During the touristic season (May to October), there are charters planes directly to Volos (Paris, Munich, London, etc) and Skiathos, it might be interesting to look for those too. We will of course help you decide what is the easiest way to come and will be next to you for any information and help.





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ABOUT OTHER PROJECTS

During your stay, you might be invited to join, help and enjoy other associations or events. Always keep in mind that is in not in your ESC duties, you always have the right to say no but if you do say yes, it will count as “working hours”. Joyce ‘n’ Fun is collaborating with the schools and other organisations of the island and are helping sports events, beach cleaning weeks, the dog shelter, the rescuing team, the cat shelter, dance festivals, alternative education events, etc.



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What about covid-19 ?

We are on an island so close to the mainland that if anything happen that can't be managed by our health center, it is easy and fast to get transferred but as we have a natural sea frontier, we are far enough to be protected by it from anything happening "out there".

On the other hand... We have to admit that if we have to go through a quarantine again, we would do it here 1000 times. We were allowed to take walks outsides and our green and blue island has enough trekking paths for us never to be bored.

Most of your projects will be on our land and we have arranged for a big part of your volunteering community projects to also be doable online, meaning you won't get bored if suddenly we are not allowed to meet our local youth IRL.



To see our everyday life, don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) !

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ABOUT THE APPLICATION

Now you have heard more about the project, this is how you apply :

1. **CV** - we will need an up to date CV so we can get to know you and your experiences
2. **Motivation letter** - we would like you to write a motivation letter to show why you would like to join the project and tell us more about your interests. Don't forget this project starts before the end of July, you should be ready to come asap!
3. **Skype interview** - once we have received your CV and motivation letter we will invite you for a Skype call so we can get to know you more.
4. **Final selection** and journey to Skiathos - once we have made our selection we will inform you and then start to make arrangements for your journey to Greece.

Please, send your CV and motivation letter to : joycenfun@gmail.com

Thank you for your time, we look forward to hear from you !



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