

**Project name:** Gipsgrueb Community & Organic Garden (Ehrendingen AG)

**Project code:** CH-SCI 10.7

**Country:** Switzerland

**Dates:** 28<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Topic:** Environmental protection

**Type of work:** Agriculture/Environment/Restoration, renovation

**Total Number of volunteers:** 10

**Volunteer Age Range:** 18 - 99

**Language:** English

**Wheelchair accessible:** No



**Description:** The cooperative 'Gipsgrueb' is situated outside of the village of Ehrendingen, in a small calm valley at the foot of the last mountain of the Jura-range. The over-100-years-old buildings of a former cement factory were left unattended for many years. Since the taking-over by the cooperative 'Gipsgrueb' in 1982, a garden and a farm were built on the agricultural land. Since the beginning, both of them adhered to the guidelines of organic farming. The total area occupied by the cooperative was about 14 hectares consisting mainly of extensive pastures and meadows, woods and ponds. A few years ago, most of the land was sold to Pro Natura, the Swiss nature conservation society. Today, the farm is run by a local tenant and the garden mainly serves the personal needs of the community members.

**Work:** You will work 2 x 5-day weeks helping the cooperative in the organic garden, maintaining an old stonewall, shrubs and hedges. Working with pruning shears, shovels, pickaxes, rakes. Harvesting plums and blackberries, if there are any.

**Accommodation:** You will sleep in the loft of the barn or in tents. Please bring a sleeping bag. The accommodation is simple and the sleeping place tends to be rather cool (the project partner can provide you with additional blankets). It has two showers, one solar shower outside and a regular one inside, and a common room. There is a washing machine. The volunteers will cook their own food - so bring some good recipes! WIFI is available. If the weather is nice and you enjoy camping, you can bring your own tent and set it outside, as the big territory allows it.

**Requirements:** A sleeping bag; good outdoor shoes; work clothes; work gloves; clothes for both warm and cool weather and a good raincoat.

**Location:** Ehrendingen AG

**Notes:** Child-friendly camp (4+ years). The cooperative also runs a solar panels workshop, as solar panels are used to produce hot water from spring to autumn. In winter, central heating produces thermal energy by burning the cooperative's own wood. In addition to the public network, wells on the territory

which belong to the cooperative provide fresh water. At the moment, seven people and a teenager live there, trying to turn their ideas and dreams into reality. For excursions in your free time, we have a VW bus at our disposal.