

Project name: Renovation of a chapel in Alsace near Germany and Switzerland

Project code: FR-SCI 12.2

Country: France

Dates: 21st August – 3rd September

Topic: Art, culture and local history

Type of work: Construction/Restoration, renovation

Total Number of volunteers: 8

Volunteer Age Range: 18-99

Language: English, but basic grasp of French is highly desired

Wheelchair accessible: No



Description: Founded in 1999, the Maison de la Nature ("House of Nature") of Sundgau is an initiation center for nature and environment. Its goal is to help people discover nature, to raise awareness of its importance and foster respect for the environment. For the 10th project, they are joining forces with the town of Ueberstrass to restore a 15th century chapel to make it a living space for local people.

Work: The volunteers will be trained and supervised by a specialist craftswoman. Your task will be to restore a wall in a traditional way, to work on other heritage locations in the region and to organise an event displaying the work carried out by the inhabitants.

Study Theme: Depending on the interests of the volunteers, there will be time for exchanges (visits, meetings, etc.) around environmental and/or heritage issues. In addition, if the volunteers want, over the weekend, a day hiking the mountains Vosges can be organised. Also over the weekend, volunteers can visit a major city in the region like Colmar, Strasbourg or Basel (the train journey will be covered).

Accommodation: The volunteers will sleep in a tent in an orchard and will benefit from the facilities of the Maison de la Nature: kitchen, showers, WC, dining room... Volunteers will be responsible for preparing meals, washing up and cleaning.

Requirements: Bring durable clothes that you are not afraid to damage and/or soil. Protective equipment for the construction site will be provided.

Location: In the Sundgau area, south of Alsace, in the east of France, very near to the border with Switzerland and Germany; an area with a long intercultural and European history. La Maison de la Nature du Sundgau is located in Altenach and the work location is the St Jean chapel in Uerberstrass.