

Volunteers Philosophy

At Alianza Arkana we aim to welcome people from all parts of the world. In exchange for sharing your time and energy with us, we offer the unique and extraordinarily rich and challenging experience of directly working with indigenous Shipibo people and their communities in the areas of health, education, permaculture, eco-sanitation and eco-social justice.

As a small organisation with limited sources of regular income, we are constantly working out the optimal way of balancing our human and financial resources. One of the key expenses that we need to meet is the rental and maintenance of our beautiful live/work urban permaculture site in Yarinacocha, the indigenous centre of Pucallpa.

We do not want to charge large amounts for our volunteers. In an ideal world, we would like to welcome our talented workforce for their time and energy alone, and for people to contribute whatever they like financially. However, while we are working towards more financial stability and an increasingly self-sustainable model, we require contributions by some of those coming to join our team. We have therefore categorised our workforce into four areas: Key Roles, Project Roles, Grant Writers and Researchers.

We aim to work with this framework for the moment, and are open to discussing each person's needs with them. As supporters of a gift economy model, we ask each person to be honest and generous when it comes to what they can contribute financially. One person's generosity can enable somebody else to be here.

Stipends

Because we have a limited budget when it comes to stipends, if you are not in need of this support and can sustain yourself here without, this will enable us to support volunteers who couldn't come otherwise, specifically those from Latin America whose regular earnings are less able to support them here. We aim to involve people from Latin America as much as possible in our work, therefore if you are from Latin America, please write to us and we can negotiate a way to facilitate your time here.

Specific Details

1. Key Roles

Minimum 9 months, free accommodation, possible stipend.

Our core team each need to be here for a minimum of 9 months, to ensure the organisation has a stable infrastructure. We are looking for graduates or people with good experience in their area for these roles. To make this viable, we offer free accommodation, and if you are in need of more support to come and work here, we can discuss a temporary stipend and options for applying for funding through us for your time here.

2. Project Roles

Minimum 3 months, 350 Soles/month minimum contribution.

We want to welcome as many of our incredible volunteers and projects here as possible. Due to the time that things take here; acclimatising, building relationships, learning about Shipibo culture, adjusting, and the momentum of each project, we do not accept volunteers for less than three months. The exception to this is if you have substantial experience in your field, in working with indigenous peoples, a clear strategy for what you can achieve in a more limited time and Spanish fluency. We ask people in Project Roles to contribute a minimum of 350 Soles per month which helps pay the rental and maintenance of our urban permaculture site. We also welcome people who want to run their own fundraising initiative for their time here.

3. Grant Writers

Minimum 3 months and free accommodation when working from Yarinacocha, and possible fee per grant.

Grants are an essential part of sustaining Alianza Arkana and we want to encourage people to write grants both during their time here and also from abroad. We have therefore considered this role separate to the Key Roles, and offer free accommodation here in Pucallpa, and, if needed, a fee per grant that can be negotiated per individual or per grant.

4. Researchers

Minimum contribution of 500 Soles per month + donation on leaving.

We are attracting an increasing number of researchers at Master's and Doctoral level who want to work with us in areas like indigenous knowledge, ayahuasca tourism, health and ecosocial justice. We are able to offer a wealth of contacts, established relationships, organizational networks, experience and local knowledge that creates a base for researchers to do work here that could take them months to establish on their own. Most people who join us for research also enjoy volunteering some of their time to the organization itself. We ask our researchers to make a minimum contribution of 500 Soles per month and to make an additional voluntary donation at the end of their stay. This money goes towards the payment of the rent and maintenance of our urban permaculture site.



As an example, here is a short joint research project between Alianza Arkana and a PhD student from the University of Berkeley, California, on 'How Shipibo healers learn their Craft'. You can download this here:

<http://www.roffeypark.com/research-insights/free-research-and-insight-report-downloads>