

ESC PROJECT IN BALMES BLANCS

Path's Museum



Activity dates: 01/05/2025 – 30/09/2025
(5 months)

Number of volunteers: 1

Hosting organization: Balmes Blancs

Contact person: Marc Cortina

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Coordinator organization: COCAT

**Volunteers ONLY from EU member
states (18 to 30 years old)**

**APPLICATIONS DEADLINE:
14/02/2025**

ABOUT BALMES BLANCS

The hosting organization

The organization in charge of the work camp is Balmes Blancs, a non-profit association created in 2010 to offer unique activities in nature with the aim of presenting new places and new people, thus deepening the knowledge of the Catalan territory. Since its inception, it has organized various activities such as snowshoe outings with animal footprints, astronomical discoveries, kayaking to explore marine fauna, rafting trips , hiking in the mountains , and leveling and safety workshops, among others.

In 2013 , the association began working in the Siarb Valley. From that moment on, Balmes Blancs focused its activities around the valley. Some of the activities they offer include guided visits to the "Despoblat de Santa Creu" in Llagunes, visits to the trenches on the Pallars front and the Vilamur bunkers, geological discoveries , and activities related to flora and fauna in the environment. At the same time, the refuge promotes hiking by creating signposted routes around Llagunes, along with a series of actions aimed at recovering the heritage of the Siarb Valley to discover rural life in Pallars Sobirà and the Pyrenees.

Since 2018 is focused in the project "The Path's Museum"

ABOUT BALMES BLANCS

The hosting organization

Vision:

To share and preserve the paths of the Pyrenees for future generations, making them an integral part of society's cultural heritage.

Mission:

Recover, showcase and explain the old paths of *Vall de Siarb*.

To rediscover, recover, and explain the ancient path of "La Vall de Siarb."

This mission involves exploring the historical trails of the region, bringing them back to life for others to experience and understand their historical and cultural significance.

Work:

Preserve and promote the heritage of Vall de Siarb region.

One of the main tasks is managing the *Refugi Vall de Siarb* hostel, providing a welcoming space for visitors exploring the area.

Recover and restore the old pathways that wind through the valley, ensuring that these historic routes are preserved for future generations.

Organize and coordinate work camps with young people, engaging them in projects that preserve of the valley's cultural and natural assets.

Values:

Respect for the environment and the traditions.

Love for nature.

A strong sense of attachment to the land and its history.

A sense of joy in restoring ancient paths and connecting with the community of *Vall de Siarb*.



Balmes Blancs and COCAT are concerned about inequalities and environmental issues, that's why:

- We support young people with fewer opportunities so that they can also participate in these experiences.
- We promote sustainable practices both in the projects in Catalonia and in the travels our volunteers do for their projects.

ABOUT COCAT

The coordinator organization

COCAT is a platform organization of international work camp organizations in Catalonia. It unites Catalan entities that implement activities in the social-educational field.

Our main goal is to promote international volunteering, understood as a tool for personal and community development and social transformation.

We promote international volunteering mainly in 2 ways:

1

Sending Catalan volunteers to the world to do work camps, mid and long term projects, ESC projects, training, youth exchanges...

2

Hosting international volunteers in the work camp projects organized by our member organizations in Catalonia.

ESC IN BALMES BLANCS

The role of the
volunteer who will
participate in our ESC
project

Support the Path's Museum

Support the operation of the *Vall de Siarb* shelter:

Welcoming visitors
Maintain the space clean and tidy
Assist in the cooking tasks

Maintaining the old paths:

Repair dry stone walls
Cut bushes in the paths
Use de pickaxe, saw, etc.

Training:

According to the ESC program,
volunteers will attend the
Welcome and Mid-Term
training, organized by the
National Agency.

Support work camp organization:

Lead the groups of young
volunteers
Plan the tasks to do and the tools
needed
Explain the project to the
participants/volunteers

Personal project:

The volunteer will have the
opportunity to develop a
personal project, in
collaboration with the other
ESC volunteers.

Practical parts of the project

Working hours:

The volunteer's schedule will be flexible, depending on the time of year and the specific project they are involved in.

Working hours will range from 9:00h to 14:30h, with the times subject to the needs of the project or season.

The volunteer will enjoy two days off each week (Tuesday and Wednesday).

Accommodation and transport:

The volunteer will live in the *Vall de Siarb* shelter located in Llagunes, and sleep in a double room. To move around the valley, there is one local bus with limited schedule.

Pocket money:

Volunteers will receive pocket money for personal expenses throughout the duration of the activity, including holidays.

Insurance: volunteers will be covered throughout the activity period by the obligatory European Solidarity Corps insurance plan (Henner) established by the European Commission.

This coverage is only supplementary to the mandatory coverage of the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**, which volunteers must obtain prior to departure.

In certain cases, when national rules deprive participants of coverage under EHIC for the duration of the placement, Henner will provide full coverage.

However, you must provide proof that obtaining the EHIC in your case was not possible.

Language courses

The volunteers will have access to EU Academy, and will be encouraged to enroll in Catalan lessons. **We also recommend that the participants begin practicing Spanish before their arrival in Llagunes to improve their language skills.**

Profile of the volunteer

Open-minded attitude, demonstrating flexibility and adaptability to various situations and environments.
Good teamwork volunteer.

A volunteer comfortable working with their hands and using basic tools to carry out several tasks effectively, such as cutting bushes, building drywall stones, and more. Willing to do manual tasks that require physical effort.

A person with a good character, positive attitude, and a passion for working with the public who can offer assistance and create a welcoming atmosphere.

Interested in living in a rural area and small village in the Pyrenees. Llagunes is a small village about 15/20 inhabitants and the largest village in the valley is Sort.

A lot of motivation to join the activity and pro-activity. Strong communication skills and a positive, cooperative attitude.

WILL BE POSITIVELY VALUED:

- Having participated in a work camp or in other international youth projects (youth exchanges, training).
- Good knowledge of Spanish.
- Willingness to learn Catalan and aptitude for foreign languages.
- Experience and interest in leading work camps as camp leader.

HOW TO APPLY?

Please take your time and fill in **THIS FORM** online.

We will **ONLY** consider candidates from member States of the European Union, who fill in the form properly.

After selection, during February, we will **ONLY CONTACT** the pre-selected candidates.*

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14/02/2025