

## **VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING PERMACULTURE PROGRAM**

### **Information for volunteers**

Chaikuni Institute's long-term vision is to empower local communities so they can change and/or recover more sustainable, ecologic, and financially sound practices to create a movement for the Amazon regeneration. Therefore, we combine traditional indigenous agriculture techniques with modern permaculture methods to develop land use alternatives and healthy and regenerative ways of life.

Our Permaculture Program is currently designed around five main pillars; our permaculture center (demonstration site of permaculture principles, practices, and technologies), research work to recover and generate ecological knowledge, outreach work and capacity building with local Amazonian communities, supporting market access for local families and environmental education.

Teaching and working with volunteers have always been important to Chaikuni. It enables us to meet new challenges and contributes to increasing the scope of our impacts. We are happy to be able to welcome volunteers back to our Permaculture Center on a regular basis.

Our Volunteer Program is designed to train volunteers in two main topics: Food Production and Bioconstruction. You can choose which of them to apply to or you can apply to both of them and we will assign you one based on your profile.

We call for volunteers who have a minimum availability of 1 month. We recommend a 3-month stay for you to have a better experience and deepen your learning. After 3 months, you can apply for the 6-month Residency Program, extending your stay and learning, having the opportunity to become responsible for a project.

### **OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**

Here you can find some information about the purpose of our Volunteer Permaculture Programs:

<b>FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAM</b>	<b>BIOCONSTRUCTION PROGRAM</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and maintenance of the food production systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and implementation of the production systems of the Permaculture Center.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design, construction, and maintenance of the Permaculture Center of the Chaikuni Institute with natural techniques.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Renovation, maintenance, and ornamentation of the Center.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning of the swamp and design of the space for the implementation of a production system (fish farm, chinampas, etc.)</li> <li>- Implementation of the “chacra integral” stage 3 and an ayahuasca.</li> <li>- Maintenance of the “chacras integrales” stage 1 and 2 and of the agroforestry.</li> <li>- Maintenance and development of the guaval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and construction of a typical house in the Amazon, with a nursery, tool room, composting, farm, and alternative technologies (dehydrator, bike machine, etc.).</li> <li>- Study and design of the water systems of the center 2 (catchment, storage, distribution, filtration)</li> <li>- Use of natural and renewable material, respecting the life cycles of construction materials (bamboo, timber, etc.)</li> </ul>
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- The activities will begin 2 days after entering the center, with the aim that you get comfortable and have time to adapt.

**CONTRIBUTION:**

- S/.580 or \$155 per month

**WHAT DO WE OFFER?**

- Single room in the residence area of our Center, which also has bathrooms, a game room, a library, and a kitchen/dining room.
- Breakfast and lunch.
- An incredible opportunity to expand your knowledge about permaculture, guided by a professional intercultural team in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, one of the most fascinating regions in the world.

**Plus, you will be able to...**

- Learn and work along the team and the Chaikuni biologists every day, learning from their extensive experience.
- Participate in mingas (communal works) for the reforestation of the Amazon.
- Participate in an OPEN SPACE, in which you can sign up to share with everyone: yoga, dream circles, qi qong, workshops, dances, dynamics or any knowledge you have and want to share!
- Participate in a practical introductory workshop on permaculture.
- Participate in a workshop with a local specialist on a relevant topic.
- Access to a discount in a course of several days (according to our program) with a recognized international specialist.
- Extend your volunteer experience applying to our 6-month residency program, which will allow you to become responsible for a project (conditional on the prior approval of the Chaikuni Institute)

- At the end of your volunteering experience, you will receive a diploma in appreciation of your participation.
- We celebrate once a month!

#### **REQUIREMENTS TO BE A VOLUNTEER:**

- Willingness and good health for field work that demands physical effort.
- Be open to living in a natural environment
- Ability to work in an intercultural team
- Basic knowledge of Spanish
- Be eager to learn
- Have a proactive, positive, and problem-solving attitude
- Be passionate about permaculture and creativity
- Have health insurance
- Covid test with negative result taken 48 hours before entering the center.

**At our permaculture center, the consumption of alcohol, cigars or any other street drugs is forbidden, with the exception of natural and traditional products like “mapacho” (amazon cigar made of natural tobacco) or “masato” (fermented drink made of yuca)**

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [contact@chaikuni.org](mailto:contact@chaikuni.org)

**START OF THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** September 4th

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