



Volunteering Abroad with Winrock International

Since 1991, Winrock volunteers have completed over 6,600 assignments in 59 countries.

Through the Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program, Winrock provides U.S. citizens the opportunity to share their skills and experience with individuals, organizations, and businesses around the world. These citizens donate their time and knowledge as volunteers, and in turn, directly improve the lives of others. Volunteers have supported women and youth entrepreneurs, food and agriculture businesses, schools and training centers, and farmers – enabling them to earn more income, feed their communities, and gain new jobs.

Volunteers benefit as well. Professionally, this is an opportunity to adapt, share, and deepen experience and skills in a different context. Personally, volunteers leave their assignments knowing that they made a difference. The people-to-people exchange results in lasting and rewarding connections.

“THIS EXPERIENCE HAS GREATLY INCREASED MY PASSION FOR ENGAGING WITH GLOBAL COMMUNITIES VIA RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEERING. I HAVE SO MUCH TO SHARE AND PLAN TO APPLY WHAT I’VE LEARNED TO THE COURSES I TEACH [IN THE US].”
- DR. CECILIA SUAREZ

Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with Winrock to increase diversity and inclusion in the F2F program. The U.S. is known for its diverse mix of people, talents, skillsets, and experiences. F2F wants to fully celebrate that diversity and initiate efforts to engage new volunteers who truly represent the diverse cross-sections of the country. This includes leaders and skilled individuals within historically marginalized communities and communities of color. This initiative will increase outreach to and partnership with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) led and affiliated organizations, minority-serving institutions (MSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), diaspora organizations, and others.

What is the F2F program looking for?

We are looking for volunteers with a wide range of experience, including but not limited to:

Technical areas: agribusiness, entrepreneurship, marketing, international trade, food processing, access to credit, farming, agricultural sciences, nutrition, livestock development, natural resource management, community development, renewable energy, gender, education and training, engineering, and information communications technologies.

General capacity building: business planning, organizational development, management, finance and administration, human resource development, and fundraising.



Volunteers should be in good health and able to spend two to four weeks on an assignment in a developing country – and/or available to share their expertise remotely (e.g., via Zoom).

The volunteer experience

F2F assignments are driven by the needs of the host organizations the program serves. In-country representatives work with local organizations and partners to identify challenges that cannot be overcome with the knowledge and skills at hand. Together, they develop scopes of work that define volunteer assignments. Winrock’s recruiters use these scopes of work to identify volunteers through an extensive electronic database and volunteer network. Winrock staff coordinate all travel and logistical arrangements for the volunteers and help acquaint travelers with the culture of host countries.

Volunteers donate their time and work independently or as part of a team of experts. Most volunteers travel abroad for an assignment that lasts two to four weeks. Program funding from USAID pays for volunteers’ travel expenses.

Once volunteers reach their destinations, transportation and interpreting services are arranged by local Winrock staff members who serve as contacts during the assignment. Volunteers then work directly with organizations and businesses to exchange ideas, solve problems, and create lasting solutions. Many volunteers develop long-term relationships with the organizations they serve and return on follow-up assignments to refine solutions and provide further technical assistance.

“VOLUNTEERING HAS BECOME THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR. IT BRINGS TRANSFORMATION ALL AROUND – FOR ME AND THOSE I VISIT.”
- ONESIMUS OTIENO

Volunteer FAQs

Where do you send volunteers?

- Winrock’s F2F program currently engages volunteers in Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal.

What days and hours will I be working?

- That depends on the country you are in and the practice of your host. Most hosts and volunteers work together six days per week, with one day off.

How do I find time to go on an overseas assignment?

- Winrock volunteers use their vacation, or many employers give time off to complete a career-enhancing volunteer assignment.
- Individuals who cannot travel can potentially volunteer remotely, engaging via Zoom and matched with a counterpart volunteer or staff in country.

I’ve never provided volunteer technical assistance. What if I need some guidance on how to implement a volunteer assignment?

- Winrock can match new volunteers with a Volunteer Champion, who can serve as a resource for new volunteers as they undertake a first-time experience traveling or volunteering abroad or conducting a virtual assignment with participants on the other side of the world.

About Winrock International

Winrock’s mission is to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources across the globe.

