



VOLUNTEER 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.

As a people-to-people exchange, volunteers benefit as well. Professionally, this is an opportunity to adapt, share, and deepen experience and skills in a different context. On a personal level, volunteers leave their assignments knowing that they had a positive impact, and often having built lasting relationships.

“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

Fostering diversity & inclusion

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has partnered with Winrock to ensure that individuals from historically marginalized communities have the opportunity to volunteer with F2F, and are properly supported in doing so. Recognizing the wealth of skills and experience Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) bring to the table, F2F is eager to engage new volunteers from BIPOC communities and facilitate their successful participation in what can be a life-changing knowledge and culture sharing experience.

Institutional partnerships: As part of this work, F2F seeks to build collaborative relationships with BIPOC-led organizations to explore how we can work together and better serve their BIPOC constituents.

What is the F2F program looking for?

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

The volunteer experience

F2F assignments are driven by the needs of the host organizations the program serves. In-country F2F staff work with local 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, and Winrock staff coordinate all travel and logistical arrangements and help acquaint volunteers with the culture of host countries. Program funding from USAID pays for volunteers' travel expenses.

Volunteers donate their time and work independently or as part of a team of experts on assignments that are typically two to four weeks long. An in-country schedule is developed to guide the volunteer's work, with free time available for cultural immersion.

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 individuals, 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."**

—DR. ONESIMUS OTIENO

Volunteer FAQs

What does Winrock provide for its volunteers?

- Our programs cover round-trip economy airfare; en route expenses (including passport, visa, and immunization costs); and lodging, meals, and incidental expenses.

Where do you send volunteers?

- Winrock's F2F Program currently sends volunteers to Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal.

When do volunteer assignments take place?

- The timing of an assignment stems from when it would make most sense for a host organization to complete the scope of work, but there is flexibility within these parameters to accommodate volunteers' availability.

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

- Winrock volunteers often donate their personal vacation time, though many employers offer time off to complete a career-enhancing volunteer assignment.
- Some assignments can be completed remotely, with volunteer engagement via Zoom and a counterpart 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 remote assignment with participants on the other side of the world.

For more info
Scan the QR code

