

# VOLUNTEERING AT VISITOR CENTRE 'LEVENDE LEIE - DE BOURGOYEN'

A NATURE RESERVE NEAR THE CITY OF GHENT, BELGIUM

**Do you love nature and working with people? Do you want to make a difference for nature and the climate? Then you are the volunteer we are looking for!**

The visitor centre 'Levende Leie - De Bourgoyen' is located next to Ghent, a larger city of about 250.000 inhabitants in the west of Belgium. The centre is connected to a relatively small (200 hectares) nature reserve maintained by the city of Ghent, together with Natuurpunt, the largest nature organisation of the country. We stand up for nature and biodiversity and strive to protect open space and the quality of the environment.



At the visitor centre, we organise guided walks, exhibitions, and many nature activities for families or children. We run a voluntary based cafe that serves as a meeting place. To keep things running, we count on the help of more than 100 active volunteers. To support our team we are welcoming one European volunteer in 2023.

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**Learn about our mission and vision**

<https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/missie-en-visie-van-natuurpunt#mission>

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## ACTIVITIES

You will participate in the daily activities of the visitor centre. This means helping in the bar during the opening hours, working in nature and supporting our volunteers with nature conservation and restoration, developing educational activities for kids or other groups. Depending on your interests, the tasks can be extended.

You receive support from four professionals and work 36 hours per week in a flexible schedule. We provide time to study Dutch and will support and motivate you to work out a personal project.



## ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

During your exchange you will live with a host family. This means that you will participate in the household as an extra family member. For example, you clean your own room and you set the table. With your host family you will celebrate holidays and learn about their habits and traditions. They will give you a warm welcome and experience this great year of your life together!

We offer you a bike to explore the area and reach the visitor centre. The city centre is only a 15-minute bike ride away from your home. In addition to the satisfaction you get from volunteering, you will receive pocket money. Meals will be provided by your host family. Don't worry about travel expenses back and forth to Belgium, this is covered by the project.

## VOLUNTEERING AND TRAINING

You will receive on-the-job training from our staff and volunteers. You will be involved in various tasks and projects but also take initiative. The volunteering project also gives you the opportunity to join an on-arrival and mid-term training, organized by the national agency.

## YOUR PROFILE

We are looking for volunteers between the ages of **18 and 30 years** who love nature and being outdoors. You will be meeting a lot new people and you should be flexible to to work as a team with other volunteers. Therefore, it will be essential to learn Dutch (Flemish) and you will be learning some new skills, depending on the tasks you carry out. We strongly appreciate volunteers that can take up initiative and responsibility.

**Do you recognize yourself in this description? Then sign up! We might meet you in summer!**



## HOW TO APPLY

Are you interested in joining our team for **12 months from August (or September) 2023** until August (or September) 2024? **The application deadline is 30/04/2023.**

Send your resume and motivation to [internationaal@natuurpuntgent.org](mailto:internationaal@natuurpuntgent.org).

If we think you are a suitable candidate, we will contact you to set an online interview.

