



Forest Friends Internship Programme

2018



What is Forest Friends?

Forest Friends Ireland is an Environmental Non-Governmental Organization that were founded in May 2000 in order to provide an alternative to a rampant monoculture forestry policy. Forests are of vital importance to us as they have the essential role of maintaining the fragile ecosystems which are able to preserve the Earth's rich biological and cultural diversity. As an organization who has no employees, solely work carried out by volunteers, we are guided by our strategic objectives to; plant our native trees, insist on the preservation of our native woodlands, and see to it that our native trees are planted in preference to the present Government policy of planting monocultures of non-native exotic species.

Regarding funding, Forest Friends Ireland receive grant funding from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment through the Irish Environmental Network (IEN). The IEN supports and coordinate individual organisations similar to Forest Friends Ireland who are all engages in protecting and enhancing the environment through their various projects and educational activities.

This is why we need YOUR help in order to help save, protect and enable growth within OUR world we live in today.

Forest Friends Ireland works to create a better understanding of our earth and the interconnections between mankind and the biodiversity contained therein. We present a conceptual framework within which a paradigm can be created for an ecologically sustainable world.

For further information about Forest Friends Ireland/Cáirde na Coille please see:

<http://www.forestfriends.ie/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestFriendsIreland>

<https://www.facebook.com/peaceforestireland>

Who is working with Forest Friends right now?

Forest Friends Ireland works on the basis of volunteers rather than just employees.

John Haughton -

Samantha

Padder

Joe

Charlie

Holly

Lucia

What can you do before your internship commences?

On our website (www.forestfriends.ie/) there is a lot of information regarding our charity, what we do and how we run. Familiarize yourself with all of this and with the environmental issues we are facing in the world today, within and outside of Ireland. Make sure to read the Newsletters, especially those from 2016 and 2017, so you know where we are at in our present stage and also the Articles of Association.

Your internship is from Monday to Friday and working hours are 10am to 4pm, with one hour for lunch between 1pm and 2pm.

How many projects do we have running at the moment?

I. Peace Forest Project

As a whole, Forest Friends Ireland (Cáirde na Coille), have prioritised three main projects; The Cross Border Project, the Centre for Forest Biodiversity, and the "Neart" Project.

The Woodland Cross Border Project is within Northern Ireland and it consists of developing forest skills, capacity building and community development. The Peace Forest Ireland Project is particular to the planting of some 4,000 peace trees in remembrance of all those who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland conflict. Forest Friends Ireland are encouraging communities and agencies all along the border to initiate tree plantings so that there will eventually be a great Peace Forest that all can be proud of, and that through tree planting projects communities on each side of the border will come to know each other better through community interaction.

The Peace Forest Ireland Project 2017 contains three modules; the planting of 2,000 peace trees in the Castle Lake Demesne Bailieborough, Co. Cavan and the planting of 2,000 peace trees in Armagh Banbridge Craigavon - giving a total of 4,000 trees to be planted in remembrance of all those who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland conflict. The trees for the former are being sponsored by Coillte and in the case of the latter; the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland. The third module is the Forkhill former military base plantings on 6th. March which is now a community landscaping project. The Peace Forest Ireland Project is envisaged as one of strengthening the Peace process and the principles based on the Good Friday Agreement. The project was launched in Derry/Londonderry in May 2014 and pilot tree plantings have taken place in each of the border counties since then.

The idea is to bring communities closer together in the planting of trees and in celebrating their heritage and enterprise and seeing and seizing opportunities for joint initiatives. The idea also is to empower local communities in the process so that they have control and ownership of individual modules of the Peace Forest. On that basis local talent, resources, sponsorships, inclusivity, job creation, craft development, enterprises in the area of woodcrafts, horticulture, forestry, agroforestry, permaculture, setting up of cooperatives, celebration of arts, multiculturalism, drama, using themes such as peace, cultural exchange and positive heritage themes would be ideal components of the Peace Forest Project.

"Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements by governments or through heroic struggles. It is something we can find and achieve every day and in many simple ways."

- Sakuji Tanaka, President of Rotary International

II. Peace Centre Project

As a whole, Forest Friends Ireland (Cáirde na Coille), have prioritised three main projects; The Cross Border Project, the Centre for Forest Biodiversity, and the "Neart" Project.

Central to the Peace Forest Ireland Project as envisaged is the creation of the Peace Centre for Forest Biodiversity, this is based on best practice in Silva culture and permaculture, a centre for environmental education. A centre of peace and reconciliation would be of local and international interest similar to the Auroville centre in Tamil Nadu in eastern India. Within this will be the incorporation of a visitor's centre surrounded by natural woodlands with space for new tree planting and growth. The idea is to develop this ground using 100% native species, commemorative trees, woodcrafts and to involve the local community to the highest extent. The centre will be held in trust with perpetuity for community benefit.

This would be a world centre where people from various parts of the world could be stakeholders and would demonstrate best practice in peacemaking, nature conservation, biodiversity, would have visitor facilities, residential facilities, demonstrate woodcrafts and other crafts, best practice in horticulture, silva-culture, permaculture, forestry. The feasibility of such a centre could be developed within the context of the two modules for 2017 and the feasibility of such an initiative could be fully accessed. Such a centre would appear to be necessary more than ever today with more wars waging than ever in the history of mankind.

Which areas are most important right now?

Forest Friends Ireland is focusing on three areas for interns to help with at the minute; Culture Night (Friday, Sept. 21st), the Online Marketing of Merchandise and the nurturing of the gardens within the ABCD Campus and North Circular Road. Since there are 6 of you; you will all be divided into groups of 2 and will be assigned to a certain area to look after during your internship. If you have any issues regarding the work, then please make sure to talk to John first, and if John is not available or in the office then please speak to Holly and Lucia, the current interns.

Culture Night:

Friday, September 21st - A Celebration of Brendan Behan; "All Along the Banks of the Royal Canal"

Venue (Canal; in from of the Charleville Mall Library)

Poetry (People to read out the famous poetry from Brendan Behan)

Musicians (Patty to sing and play guitar? Piper?)

Posters (A creative poster needs to be made by interns for this event!)

Advertising (Scheduled posts on Facebook to boost this event)

Online Marketing of Merchandise:

Re-discuss Prices

CD (Contact Emmanuel about more songs)

CD Cover (Design is needed)

T-Shirts (What ones do we have already?)

T-Shirt Designs (Each intern to design one more t-shirt)

Poetry Book (Rotate image, add 4 sample poems)

Posters (Feature all on website)

Check Postage Prices (What will each customer have to pay to receive their purchase?)

Additional

Blog Posts

Advertising

Garden:

ABCD CAMPUS -

Water Outside Plants

Water Greenhouse Plants

Weeding

Checking Plant Growth

NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD -

Mowing the Back Garden

Weed the Plant Areas

Trimming the Front Bushes

Weed the Front Areas

Clear the Dust & Rubbish

Water Plants

Checking Plant Growth
