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## BAMBOO VOLUNTEER/INTERN COMMUNITY

### Introduction

#### Process and Activity concerning Volunteer and Interns:

##### Introduction

The process of volunteering at Auroville is based on established principles that apply to the whole community. At the heart of this is "SEVA" and "SADHANA" or, simply expressed in English, "Service" and "Learning" but there are wider meanings for both terms that are available to all with a little research especially involving the teachings of "The Mother" and Sri Aurobindo. Please consider this as part of the Auroville experience.

##### Teams

BAMBOO VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY functions as three teams:

- **Bamboo Centre:** Hands-on building, product design, architecture
- **Bamboo Land:** Bamboo farming and intercrop experimental plantation

We invite volunteers to choose the team that aligns with their goals and interests.

#### **We ask for a minimum commitment of 8 weeks to a team.**

BAMBOO VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY is an authentic community experience. We request that all volunteers honor their commitment to the community and to their team. We expect a high level of integrity in completing any undertakings.

##### Before Arrival

All applicants to the Bamboo Centre and Auroville in general need to understand that engagements with us are based purely on a volunteer basis. There is no provision for payments whatsoever. We reserve the right to make special provision under certain circumstances but this is at the sole discretion of the Bamboo Centre and is a rare occurrence.

##### **Conditions of Application and Responsibilities:**

- All interns/volunteers must provide ID proof & intention letter
- All interns/volunteers must abide by the general conditions of Auroville and Indian law.
- **Interns and Volunteers should not smoke cigarettes, use drugs, or drink alcohol, inside or outside of Auroville Bamboo Centre, during their entire stay. Only come**

**to Auroville Bamboo Centre if you are 100% sure that you are able and willing to completely respect this.** This guideline helps us stay always fully aware of our behavior, and maintains our personal health, safety and security.

- Intern and Volunteer assignments are for agreed terms and on mutually acceptable conditions. These may be adjusted depending on circumstances.
- This is a two-way commitment between the volunteer and Auroville Bamboo Centre but the relationship can be terminated. In this instant the volunteer is responsible for ensuring that they make alternate arrangements and that this is advised to the relevant Auroville authority.
- You are expected to bring your own laptop/devices to operate for your daily works. We cannot provide extra devices to interns / volunteers.
- Safety and security of all your belongings is responsibility of the candidate.
- **A volunteer needs to compulsorily register for any one of the workshops scheduled, before beginning his/her volunteering process. A volunteer discount is available for registered volunteers.**
- **Savi registration is required.**

People coming for **BAMBOO VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY** are requested to communicate with **SAVI – the Auroville Volunteer Support Group**. SAVI has a monthly contribution for volunteers, which is Rs. 900/- month. With this registration, you are integrated with the Auroville community and also have many benefits with Auroville services. You can read online on <https://www.auroville.org/contents/386> to read more about Savi.

Also refer:

<http://auroville-learning.net/about-us/principles-and-conditions/>

We are also very interested in long term interns/volunteers staying with us for a period of six months or longer. **Foreigners** in this case will need to apply for an **Entry Visa**. Please contact us for more detailed information. (Foreigners need to confirm with Savi about the correct Visa which allows for volunteering in Auroville).

Foreigners must ensure that they have all travel documents and visas correctly processed. We advise that international visitors have their own travel and medical insurance. Indian Nationals have no such requirements. They can register with SAVI in the first week of their arrival.

#### **Daily schedule (Monday through Saturday):**

We engage in seva (selfless service) which includes:

- 6.00am – 9.00am - planting, mulching, and watering bamboo, trees, vegetables & herbs in the **Bamboo Forest & Intercrop Farming, (Team Bamboo land) (optional)**
- 8.00am - 9.00am – Breakfast
- 9.00am – 12.30pm – Morning shift **(All Teams)**
- 12.30pm - 1.30pm – Break for lunch **(All Teams)**
- 1.30pm – 4.30pm – Afternoon shift **(Team Mohanam & Bamboo centre)**
- Additional volunteers/interns shifts: (Monday through Sunday)
  - Cleaning after meals,
  - Centre Clean up 1 Hour per week (common area, kitchen, etc.)

**Weekly schedule:**

- Every Monday at 10.00am (in the case of holiday the day after) – written goals to do in the current week
- Every Saturday at 3.30pm – presenting of the written report of week's work done.
- At the end of internship/volunteering you will have a final presentation and documentation

**Contributions:****Internship/Volunteering Contribution:****Rs.7,000/- per month**

Including accommodation, breakfast, lunch and 2 times tea at the bamboo centre; basic Wi-Fi, basic laundry, tools & materials, technicians & faculties times, volunteer trainings, site visits and other projects, other amenities in the campus.

- **Accommodation at Bamboo Centre:**

The Bamboo Centre provides basic on-site bamboo cottages and dormitory with shared bathroom for intern/volunteer accommodation. Some of the cottages available are on twin sharing basis. (We will enclose pictures for our on-site accommodation cottages)

- **Food at Bamboo Centre:**

- Tea (twice a day at 10am and 3pm) – Monday through Saturday
- Included Basic Breakfast & Lunch – Monday through Saturday
- Not included: Dinner. There are many more restaurants and kitchens available in Auroville. A basic community kitchen area is available to do your own basic cooking as well

In above both options, **we request full advance payment for the total tenure which you confirm with us.** This amount is non- refundable

**Please Note:** The above contribution is fixed for everyone, regardless of if you stay with us or outside.

**Savi Registration:**

**Every intern/volunteer is required to register with Savi - the Auroville Volunteer Support Group.** This includes a basic Auroville contribution **of Rs. 900/- per month.** (This is separate from the monthly contribution at bamboo centre)

Read on below link for more details:

<http://auroville-learning.net/about-us/principles-and-conditions/>

### **Internship/Volunteer programme is Inclusive of following:**

- You can collaborate in on-going research projects
- Basic Introduction course is included (For Interns only)
- Your designs or creations will be added to Bamboo Centre Community on Facebook and Website Blogs.
- Addition to newsletter list.
- Internship Certificate at the end of the program
- Your products could be put in The Bamboo Store Showcase

### **More information on Auroville**

You may find it valuable to visit [www.auroville.org](http://www.auroville.org) for more information on the background and principles of the community. Through the website it is possible to search for things like maps of the Auroville Community, transport and activities available. There is a weekly publication on events and activities Auroville News and Notes that may be accessed online and downloaded.

### **Upon Arrival**

All international guests are required to complete Govt. of India documents, specifically the "**C-Form**". This is the responsibility of the guesthouse, if you are staying at the Bamboo Centre this will be processed on-site. Indian Nationals have no such requirement. There are other registrations for all interns/volunteers required at either SAVI. There are many advantages for longer term interns/volunteers to register with SAVI as you will be invited to certain events. Please check with them and register with Financial Services on the ground floor of the Town Hall. This is important as most transactions within Auroville are done through Financial Service accounts and most places in Auroville do not accept cash payments. As a volunteer/intern you may apply for an Auroville Guest Card / Aurocard to be included in the Auroville economy. Depending on the term of stay there may be other formalities that will be advised. At commencement of your term at the Bamboo Centre we will do an introduction as follows:

- You will be given an Introduction folder
- *Specific conditions for the volunteer term will be mutually discussed and understood.*
- *We will provide support and mentoring, evidence of engagement etc.*
- *If feasible you may join one of our scheduled workshops at reduced rates at any time during your term as intern/volunteer.*
- *Generally there will be weekly meeting collectively with volunteers or individually as needed with specific appointment for individuals.*

### **General Conditions**

Overall Auroville has a series of recommendations concerning behavior in the community. Please familiarize yourself with these especially those concerning things like smoking, alcohol and drug use.

The Bamboo Centre does conform to the general policy of the community and the Indian law and so we ask all interns/volunteers to behave accordingly with care and discretion. There are few dress conditions that apply in Auroville except in respect to

visits to Matrimandir and we again ask visitors to understand and conform in this case. Information is available at the Visitors Centre where all first-time visitors are required to book their first visit to Matrimandir. We ask that guests check on suitable dress if they are visiting other areas, temples or govt. offices. In broad terms Auroville is very safe but it is not entirely free of incidents. The biggest problem for most concerns road-safety. Poor road conditions, especially in monsoon, and the lack of experience by visitors with two-wheeled transport inevitably can lead to minor accidents.

We ask all to take special care and to check on emergency phone numbers and the locations for medical attention. Please confirm the emergency numbers upon arrival.

There are many activities available in Auroville, of which some are either free of charge or request voluntary donation. There are also many other activities, where fees are payable. Please never assume that activities are free of charge and check on their conditions well in advance. Similarly not all locations support the use of Accounts, Credit Cards or even the Auroville Visitors Card. We ask that you check on these facilities and do not make assumptions.

### **People and Culture**

We have discussed certain policies and customs earlier in this document. For some, India can take time to come to terms with and understand. This applies just as much to Auroville. We ask visitors to take the time to explore both the community of Auroville and that of the villages surrounding it as both contribute to the experience. Please take the opportunities offered by SAVI.

Auroville Bamboo Centre has a sister organization call Mohanam Cultural Centre in the village of Sanjeevinagar where our volunteers can spend time to learn about the local village culture.

### **Summary**

The Auroville Bamboo Centre invites you to collaborate with us in the ongoing exploration and research of the possibilities Bamboo has to offer on a local, national and global scale. This covers the practical elements of working with bamboo, the cultural elements of working and residing in a multi-cultural community and the spiritual elements defined by The Mother and Sri Aurobindo.