



Frequently Asked Questions

Please be aware that I AM YOU receives more emails than we have time to answer. Here are the answers to your most frequently asked questions.

How can I volunteer with I AM YOU?

Please sign up on our website www.iamyou.se/volunteers and one of our coordinators will be in touch with you within a week. You can find information about what our volunteers do on our website and through our daily updates on Facebook.

Who can volunteer with I AM YOU?

Our volunteers come from all over the globe and are from varied backgrounds and age groups. While we are a Swedish organization, we operate in English as it is the common language for our diverse volunteers. When emailing us or posting a question on Facebook, please write in English to ensure a quicker reply.

The skills we look out for can be found on the "Volunteers" section of our website.

What is the minimum amount of days I can volunteer?

I AM YOU requires a minimum of a 2 week commitment, with a preference for longer term volunteers. Volunteers who speak Greek, Arabic, Farsi, and Kurdish will receive priority consideration.



When should I come?

First day inductions will take place at 10am on a Monday and Thursday morning, therefore please aim to arrive in advance of one of these days. If this is not possible, please advise the HR Coordinator. In order for you to recover from your journey, we recommend you arrive in Chalkida, the town closest to Ritsona camp, on a Sunday or Wednesday.

Will my costs be reimbursed?

The work is voluntary and you will not receive any economic compensation. Volunteers pay for their own flights and meals during your stay. I AM YOU sponsors volunteers with shared transport on location and special rates for accommodation.

There are limited sponsorship opportunities available for long-term volunteers with preference towards translators. This is decided on a case by case basis.

What is expected from an I AM YOU volunteer?

Volunteers are required to be respectful and kind to the camp community members, organizations, authorities and other volunteers. A great deal of energy and flexibility is required as your work will change from day to day. Our work goes through periods of high and low intensity, depending on the situation each day. It is therefore crucial that volunteers are able to use initiative in both high and low periods in order to react quickly when required and find opportunities to get to know the community members or come up with ideas at quieter times. We cover one eight hour shift in camp per day, working from 9.30-5.30 with one day off per week (two per week if you are staying longer than one month).



What work will I be doing?

Ritsona is a long term refugee camp. It currently host around 700 refugees, mostly from Syria and Iraq, with smaller communities of Kurdish, Yazidi and Afghans. There are four NGOs working in the camp: I AM YOU, ECHO100plus, Lighthouse relief and Red Cross. In addition there are representatives of the Greek community and independent volunteers.

I AM YOU volunteers are appointed to one of our four Programs: Education Support Program, Youth Activities Program, Expressive Arts Program, Camp Support Program. More information on each can be found on our website. Please specify in your application which Program you would like to join and why.

How to get there

The closest airport is Athens International. From Athens you will need to reach Chalkida, where most volunteers stay (half an hour away from camp, by car).

For short term volunteers we recommend renting a car in Athens (where it is cheaper) for the duration of your stay. Chalkida is approximately 1 hour's drive from the airport. Your car will give you more freedom to travel to and from camp and around Chalkida and the surrounding areas.

From the airport you can take bus X97 to Liosson Bus Terminal. Where you get off the bus, turn the corner to the large bus station. From here you can get a bus to Chalkida (it will say "Halkida" on the front). In total it will take between 2 and 3 hours depending on bus departure times.

Where to stay

Please ask our HR Coordinator if you would like to check availability in one of our volunteer houses for a small nightly charge. Long-term volunteers and translators take priority.



Alternatively, John's Hotel (www.johnshotel.gr), Lucy Hotel (www.lucy-hotel.gr) and Paliria Hotel (www.paliria-hotel.gr) have agreed on keeping discounted rates for volunteers. Prices, which include breakfast, are as follow:

- Double room, not sea view: 35 € for the room
- Double room, sea view: 50 € for one person, 55 € for two, 60 € for three
- Two bedrooms one bathroom apartment, not sea view: 60 € per room. Two more rollaway beds can be supplied for 13 € each.

Please always confirm with the hotel as prices may change as summer approaches.

Practical information

Most of our communications are made through Whatsapp: we recommend volunteers to bring an unlocked phone and purchase a Greek sim card with data. It can be purchased in Chalkida or at the airport in Athens.

What to wear

We recommend volunteers to pack heavy-duty shoes and comfortable clothes for camp. As we are going towards summer, light but culturally appropriate clothes (i.e. t shirts covering the shoulders and long loose-fitting trousers) are necessary, but we suggest to bring a light jacket for the evenings. A more detailed packing list can be found below.

Should I bring supplies/ donations?

If you think it's something that won't be easily sourced in Greece, yes. If unsure, please get in touch for further information.



For more common goods we recommend to try to buy them locally, to sustain the Greek economy. Also by buying goods here you will be able to identify the most pressing needs of the moment, which are always different.

Packing List

It is important to keep in mind the sensitivities related to culture when deciding what clothes to pack. Although we are operating in Europe, the camp is very much the community of displaced people, therefore we should be respectful of their culture.

You will be provided with an I AM YOU branded t shirt upon arrival, and should pair this with long trousers/pants/jeans.

Comfortable shoes - these are essential as you will be on your feet all day and the terrain is uneven and rocky. If you are here long-term it is a good idea to bring more than one pair to avoid leaving a bad smell behind you!

Jumper/jacket - a jumper, cardigan or light jacket is recommended for the cooler evenings.

T shirts/tank top - you may choose to wear these underneath your I AM YOU shirt to keep it fresher for longer.

Backpack - It is a good idea to have a well-stocked bag with you at all times. Please bear in mind that there is no safe place to leave your things in camp, therefore we recommend that you keep it on you at all times.

Water Bottle - It is important to stay hydrated! In Greece you can buy 1 litre of water for €1. There is no mains drinking water on camp.



Sunscreen and Hat - It is very hot in Greece and shade is not always guaranteed depending on your activity.

Hand sanitiser and/or baby wipes - There is often not enough water in camp for the community members to wash, so bring hand sanitiser for your own hygiene and safety.

Insect Repellent - with DEET is best to stop the bugs biting!

Watch - It's a good idea to bring if you don't want to use all of your battery from your phone. Our activities run to a schedule and we rely on the punctuality of our volunteers.

Powerbank/portable charger - We communicate through whatsapp all day every day, and batteries can drain quickly. Electricity to the camp is very limited, so a portable charger or powerbank will rescue you!

Rainponcho - A good thing to have with you just in case the weather changes.

Hair tie - If you have long hair, it is a good idea to bring some hair ties. Sometimes there can be lice in the camps so it's a good idea to put up your hair.