

## **Volunteer at Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Africa**

Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue is seeking volunteers for 2023 and into 2024. Located on the edge of a lush forest in Cameroon (west-central Africa), SYCR provides sanctuary for 78 orphaned chimpanzees who are survivors of the illegal bushmeat and pet trade.

Founded and directed by an American veterinarian, Dr. Sheri Speede, the sanctuary offers an unforgettable opportunity to live and work in close proximity to many amazing animals. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to assist with day-to-day operations of the sanctuary and to pitch in wherever needed most. Positions are for 6 months with shorter stays possible (see below).

### **Tasks include but not limited to:**

- assisting with 4 daily chimpanzee feedings
- washing, cutting & distributing fruit/vegetables
- preparing enrichment
- maintaining camp equipment; sometimes cleaning & painting cages
- buying food & supplies in town
- helping care for baby chimps *if* needed
- working with Cameroonian staff (most speak French)

**Important note:** safe & limited contact with chimpanzees of all ages occurs during daily feedings AFTER one month of training. There is sometimes a need for volunteers to help care for rescued baby chimpanzees prior to their integration, if any are in care (Cameroon staff provide the majority of care).

### **Qualifications:**

- Minimum 21 yrs and paid work experience
- Fluent in English; basic conversational French definitely preferred
- Good health and physical stamina; able to lift up to 35 lbs
- Able to follow protocols and adapt easily to changing tasks/schedules
- Able to adapt to basic living conditions in an isolated setting

### **Prefer:**

- University degree
- Work experience as part of a group or project team
- Experience living, or spending extended time, in a developing country (ideally Africa)
- Prior experience working with chimpanzees or other great apes

**Important note:** for veterinarians, medical personnel, mechanics, and engineers, qualifications, length of stay and fee are negotiable - please inquire.

**Salary/funding:** This is an unpaid position. Travel expenses, visa, vaccinations, etc. are paid by the volunteer. No research grants or stipends are provided. If accepted as a volunteer, there is a one-time sliding fee scale based on length of stay: US \$300 for 6 month stays; US \$600 for 5-6 month stays; US \$800 for 4-5 month stays; US \$1000 for 3-4 month stays.

**Support provided:** Lodging and food for vegetarian meals are provided at the site as is transportation between Yaoundé and the site.

**Term of Appointment:** 6-month stays are preferred and are the norm; shorter stays are possible based on sanctuary needs. Minimum stay is 3 months.

**Application Information:** Open throughout the year.  
Please request an application: [rebecca@sanaga-yong.org](mailto:rebecca@sanaga-yong.org)

**Website:** <https://www.sychimprescue.org>