

VOLUNTARY TIME
IN TURKANA, KENYA WITH
Learning Lions



*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

Learning Lions

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SUMMARY

Spend between one and three months in one of the most remote areas of East-Africa mentoring a team of young adults on their way to become entrepreneurs on the global digital market. Build up a relationship with bright African minds, and enable them to have a successful career, without having to leave their home region. It will be a live-changing experience!

Full-board and lodging will be provided.



WANTED!

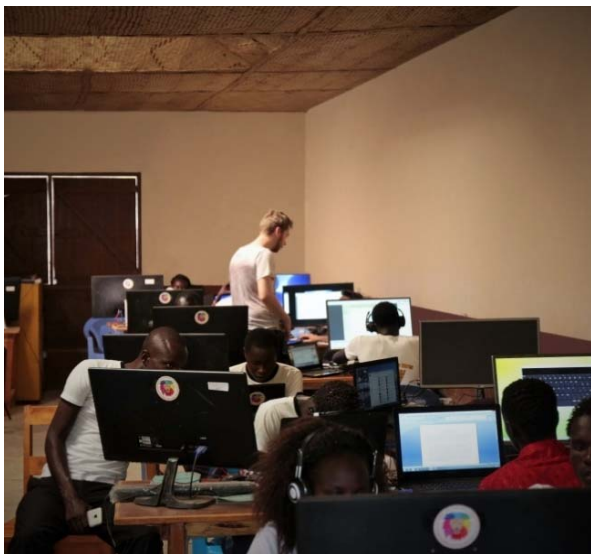
If YOU...

- Have skills in programming, graphic design, animation, film or music
- Want to use your skills to help others
- Can commit to at least one month (ideally three or more)
- Are able to mentor a small team of at least five bright young minds
- Think positively and like to work in team
- Are ready to stay in simple living conditions
- Are willing to experience a completely different culture on the other side of the world

THEN THIS COULD BE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

THE CHALLENGE

Rural areas across Africa (such as Turkana, North Kenya) often have poor infrastructure, limited access to markets, very few formal job opportunities, and consequently suffer from high levels of unemployment and little opportunity for moving out of poverty. Turkana in particular has infertile soil that does not support sustainable agriculture, with the majority of food supplies having to be transported from cities several hours away. Local businesses including basket weaving, mechanical repairs and small kiosks exist, however none of these scale to provide widespread employment opportunities or meaningful wages. And yet, with around 900.000 inhabitants, Turkana holds an untapped potential of human talent with the chance of having internet access even in some of the most remote areas.



OUR CONCEPT

Learning Lions is a non-profit program that selects, educates and trains young adults living outside urban areas with few job opportunities in high-value skills like software development, graphic design and media production. It is focused on hands-on skills taught by volunteers from around the world that can immediately be used to generate income online. Our follow up program **Startup Lions** (www.startuplions.org) then helps our trained “Lions” to use the skills they acquired in the training to create their own business in our lakeside IT-Hub, while we source clients for them from around the world.

YOUR MISSION

As part of the non-profit program **Learning Lions** you would dedicate your time to lead and support a small groups of 3 – 10 young adults in your specific area of expertise. We propose an instructor led “learning by doing” format but are eager to discuss the most effective way with you.

Your ultimate goal will be to reduce the high unemployment rate in impoverished rural areas of Eastern Africa by teaching the selected “Lions” applicable ICT & media skills. Thanks to your dedication you will enable talented and motivated young adults to work and live a better life full of perspective in their region of origin.

MENTORING HIGH POTENTIAL YOUTH

You will be working with bright young minds coming from villages of the Turkana region (the poorest region in Kenya) aged between 18 and 25 years old. We select the students not based on their school grades, but using a two hour IQ test. Of 1.000 participants, we choose only the best 50 to become part of the program.

Our only criteria is a good command of the English language and a high score in the IQ test. Many of them never had access to a computer before.



DIFFERENT FIELDS OF TEACHING

- Software Development, Web Development, Mobile Application Development
- Graphic Design
- Database management (e.g SQL)
- Animation (2D/3D)
- Digital Video and Film Production (Premiere, After Effects)
- Digital Sound and Music Production (Cubase, Audition)

TEACHING APPROACH

1. The Basic training:

Learning Lions offers the selected students a structured learning plan with a specific timeframe and clear learning objectives. In the first 3 months learning period they undergo a curriculum, developed by our partner organization Tunapanda aimed to take people with little or no computer skills to a comparable level of young adults in the developed world, who had much earlier access to computers. The program includes self-paced video tutorials, instructor-led learning and practical training. They learn the basics of programming, graphic design, video and music production.

Another very important aspect of this training are the soft skills. Communication, teamwork, time management and presentation skills are boosted.

2. The Advanced training – This is where you kick in!

Those students who performed well in the basic training are then invited to stay on campus as trainees. They will use code academy and similar courses to advance on their skills.

Additionally, we will group them in teams of 3 to 10 members, for instructor-led task-based learning. For this we are looking for motivated volunteers with practical experience, in other words, YOU!

Thanks to your help Trainees will learn how to deliver against a client's objective within a specific timeframe and collect feedback on the quality of their work and project management ability. Trainees also build up a portfolio of references showcasing their quality. This will set the foundation for their path to entrepreneurship and will help them to set up their own little business in a subsequent step.

The young Lions have an amazing energy and huge potential. They need your help to transform this energy into a structured form which will help them to build a successful future.



LOCATION AND SETUP

We are starting to build an ICT-Center in Loropio (Kalimapus area) at the shores of Lake Turkana (Kenya) between Kalokol and Kataboi. At this center our “Lions” can live, learn, train and eventually become entrepreneurs in a campus-like environment that provides them with the best preconditions to make a successful career. We estimate completion in 2018. Until then, we are successfully operating from our campus in Lodwar (Turkana County, Kenya). This means that until final completion of the ICT center, you would be teaching and living (together with the whole team) in Lodwar.



YOU, as a teaching volunteer, would receive full board and lodging. You live and work within our center in Lodwar, you will have your own bedroom and the house offers basic sanitary facilities as well as a kitchen and a chill-out lounge.

The Learning Lions program offers you the opportunity to live in one of the most remote regions in the world. The social environment and setting of our project is very young and friendly but it goes without saying that you will not live in luxurious conditions. We reassure you that it will be a life-enriching experience for you from a professional and a personal point of view.

Lodwar is a small city (~50 000 inhabitants) located in the northwest of Kenya and west of Lake Turkana. Most of its population is still following traditional living habits in relatively poor conditions. At the same time, the city is the bustling center of the region with two nightclubs, many bars and restaurants. It is a 2-hour car drive away from the future ICT center.

As a volunteer, you might want to travel and do some sightseeing on the weekends. Lake Turkana, the world’s largest permanent alkaline desert lake located, is probably a must-see. The lake is also called the Jade Sea because of its azure-green color. The key attraction is “Central Island” with its three crater lakes – Crocodile Lake, Flamingo Lake and Tilapia Lake and an active volcano. You might even be able to spot some wild animals such as elephants, lions, giraffes or antelopes at the South Turkana National Reserve.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

There are several flights per day available from Nairobi to Lodwar with following companies: Fly 540, Safarilink and Skyward Express. You might also grab a bus, even though this could take a whole day of travel. Of course, we are able to assist with any transportation or organizational matters in case of questions and will be in close contact once you have decided to join us.

Unfortunately, Learning Lions will not be able to cover the travel costs for volunteers up to Lodwar as our policy strictly follows the approach to invest every dollar only in the direct education of our Lions. Other volunteers managed to get funding through scholarships or donations for their travel expenses.

Once you arrive in Lodwar, we are happy to pick you up from the airport and get you started in our project.



TIME FRAME

As volunteer, you would be able to start any time. The “Lions” are ready to be taught and are waiting for your guidance. Concerning the duration, we would suggest that you stay at least one month, even though you will gain more of the experience if you stay 3 or more months. You can easily get a 3-month tourist visa for Kenya, and another 3-month extension.

GET IN TOUCH!

If you think this could be something for you, and like to join us, send us your CV and a short email to info@learninglions.org.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have!

And we would be delighted to welcome you at Learning Lions and are looking forward to share some quality time together with you in rural Africa.

Ludwig, Charlotte, Antonius, Brizan and Wilhelm





“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela



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