



## **Charter for Volunteers to the Pilgrims of La Salette – 2026**

This charter applies to persons who wish to become associate volunteers to the Pilgrims of La Salette. **It cancels and replaces all previous editions.**

Successful volunteering is characterized by four dimensions :

- spirituality,
- willingness,
- generosity,
- competency.

Being a volunteer is part of a mission within the church community:

**☞ This is not about identifying with a function or a position!**

The volunteer undertakes a commitment to respect the organization, the rules of operation and the procedures of the Sanctuary with which they have opted to collaborate. He or she is also welcome to propose amendments and improvements or suggest new initiatives.

It is essential that information related to or arising from the service or mission of the volunteer is treated with appropriate discretion and confidentiality, and that volunteers, the members of the religious communities here, and staff work together in a spirit of openness, mutual support and mutual understanding.

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The Sanctuary of Our Lady of La Salette came into being after the appearance of the Virgin Mary to two young shepherds in 1846.

Since the day of the apparition, thousands of pilgrims from around the world visit the Holy Mountain of La Salette, situated at an altitude of 1800 meters.

To accommodate these, as well as the many other visitors who make the trip, a hostel has gradually developed.

Many volunteers, of diverse countries, ages and backgrounds, offer their contributions in assisting the Missionaries and Sisters of Our Lady of La Salette to welcome the pilgrims. They do this through their participation in various tasks, freely chosen, working alongside permanent and seasonal employees, to whose expertise they are able to add their own knowledge and multiple and varied skills, whilst gaining in return skills learnt from fellow workers.

The Community of Our Lady of La Salette has always been, and remains, committed to providing, for the benefit of volunteers, an experience of international and intergenerational community life, through bringing them together with staff (permanent and seasonal), members of the male and female religious communities and also visitors and pilgrims from around the world.

This is the project of the Association of Pilgrims of La Salette: to form a real community. One based on Gospel values, respect, sharing and solidarity.

Each volunteer, in their own special way, must find in their selfless actions a source of personal fulfilment which is more than simply 'mission', giving, or perhaps restoring, at any age, a real sense of meaning to life.



The volunteer puts their skills to good use in the service of the Sanctuary and must, in doing so, acquire additional abilities which will enhance their educational studies and personal and professional life. They will also have a real desire to share in the life of the Sanctuary, especially in any process of mutual exchange.

## CONDITIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- Duration of the stay: minimum 15 days – maximum 02 months (Geographical Europe) and 3 months (other continents).
- Health: When registering, you have to provide the following documents:  
\*\* a medical certificate of aptitude for staying and doing activities at altitude 1800 meters, accompanied by the vital card / EKUZ for those having or a medical insurance with repatriation option for those who do not have it.
- Owing to us, due to our location and our altitude, board and lodging are provided by the Sanctuary.
- A contribution to your transportation costs may be paid at your request under the following conditions, and only if the expense has actually taken place:

French volunteer	€ 49 maximum per week of volunteering (7 days).
Foreign Volunteer	€ 70 maximum per week of volunteering (7 days).

- The refund can only be made to the production of all receipts corresponding to your transport costs exclusively and that you must present us.
- **No lodging refund during the trip.**
- **No refund of tickets beyond 24 hours of stopover with accommodation.**
- **Mileage allowance: 0.25 cts (distance-based Internet home address to the Sanctuary), COSTS OF PAY TOLLS INCLUDED. Registration card of the vehicle used has to be presented.**
- **Please note, only one reimbursement per car regardless of the number of occupants.**
- Depending on your country of origin, you are personally responsible for organizing an appropriate tourist visa.

## LODGING

- The type of accommodation is with washbasin. The toilets are collective and located on each floor. **Following the busy season, volunteers may be asked to share a room with other volunteers. There are no specific room reservations. Rooms are assigned randomly based on occupancy and availability.**
- You must maintain the cleanliness of your room and also of other communal facilities: toilets and basins, showers, corridors, staircases and common rooms used by volunteers...
- You must make a particular effort not to create noise disturbance (through music or chatter...) in rooms, corridors or on staircases, particularly in the evening and night-time.
- Rooms are to be used only by the persons to whom they have been allocated.
- Your room is not to be used as a kitchen or dining room.
- Pets are not permitted.
- **Smoking is strictly forbidden in bedrooms, common rooms and in general – anywhere indoors.**
- Bed linen and towels will be provided.

## VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES



- The Sanctuary, includes many services (see details below).
- Your commitment corresponds to your desire to provide concrete help to the Pilgrims and their reception. **Versatility, based on your skills and the current needs of the Sanctuary, is encouraged. Signing this Volunteer Charter constitutes acceptance of this principle.**

- One day per week outside of this service is reserved for you **regardless of the duration of your volunteering (no accumulation of days)**. Your commitment to our Pilgrims Association of Our Lady of La Salette is as an active membership and its purpose is entirely voluntary and free. He is therefore not paid. The volunteer is not an employee and is not the subordinate of a person in charge of the association. He can accept or refuse the missions and the tasks which are asked of him, by respecting a reasonable period of thought in order to allow the association to organize his substitution and the continuity of the service to the pilgrims.
- The volunteer may be absent and must inform the person in charge of the animation that day and place the designated associative officials in capacity to operate the activity for the benefit of pilgrims.
- A salaried manager of the volunteers is appointed He is seconded by an animation team. He ensures that any possible relationship problems that may arise are addressed by encouraging dialogue between the volunteers in their relations with the other members of the association and the staff of the services in which they assist.

### **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

- Your stay at La Salette offers you the opportunity to maintain and deepen your faith.
- A priest, Missionary of La Salette, is particularly in charge of the pastoral animation of volunteers. He is assisted by other Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of La Salette. You will be invited to take an active part in these activities: Eucharist, teachings, discovery of the message and the event of La Salette, time of prayer in the morning and the evening with the Religious Communities, adoration, prayers vigils, time of testimonies and life sharing ...
- You will have the opportunity to have a personal spiritual accompaniment by a religious, if you wish and if you request it.
- You can also participate in the activities offered to pilgrims and / or take part in their preparation.
- It will of course be necessary to make sure that you are organized in the light of the activity entrusted to you as part of your volunteer commitment.

### **LEISURE OUT OF SERVICE VOLUNTEER**

- A team in charge of the animation will present you organized hobbies but also everything that offers our environment. She remains of course at your disposal for any proposal that you may have to expose.
- After each service to pilgrims, you can participate in various activities or organize yourself: ex.: walks, relaxing evenings, national evenings, themed evenings, sports, entertainment, evenings for reflection. Think about and don't forget your musical instruments
- You will have access to the WIFI network, in some locations of the House. **(Given the geographical location and its isolation, the connection may be unstable)**
- Assistance with learning the French and English languages will be offered by other volunteers (depending on the period).



- A time of sharing between volunteers, employees and staff of both Religious Communities, is organized every two weeks at the Snack Bar. You are cordially invited.

### **SILENCE AND PEACE AND DRESS CODE**

- Everyone is asked to strictly observe silence throughout the Sanctuary. Dedicated rooms are planned for the evenings and the relaxation of the volunteer
- Clean and appropriate clothing is required at all times at the Sanctuary (shorts, Bermuda shorts, short or transparent clothing are prohibited).

### **BADGE**

- A badge will be given upon arrival at the Sanctuary.
- It is important to wear it every day the badge allows us to recognize each other but also pilgrims to know that we are at their service.

### **COMMITMENT OF VOLUNTEER**

- If you find out it is impossible to come to fulfill your volunteer commitment as you had planned, we thank you for informing us as soon as possible so we can offer your place to other volunteer candidates.
- Before your arrival, we will give you the latest practical information, useful for the trip.

### **RULES OF GOOD COOPERATION**

- The La Salette Pilgrims' Association undertakes to respect the rights of the volunteer (in particular the right of withdrawal from dangerous situation and the right of break in the event of fatigue or personal difficulty requiring the temporary suspension of the voluntary commitment).
- For its part, by signing this Charter, the future volunteer is informed that the Association has the right to separate from him in the respect of his honor and his devotion, in case of inappropriate behavior and incompatible with the rules of good functioning and ethics of the Sanctuary.

### **LIST OF SERVICES OFFERED**

**(Please communicate your possible preferences by referring to the registration form)**

- Animation of volunteers
- Youth and kids reception service (Predispositions and French language required)
- Pilgrim's reception
- Commercial reception (Practice of languages including French).
- Kitchen / dishes
- Restaurants (Pilgrims, staff)
- Shop
- Pastoral Care: Reception at the gallery, museum, candlemakers, assistance in the Sacristy, making torches...
- Rooms: Accommodation for pilgrims and its common areas & laundry facilities
- Witamy: Accommodation for staff & volunteers and common areas of the rest of the Sanctuary (interior & exterior).
- Organist (schedule managed by the Rector's office).



## SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST

**☞ Thank you to return us, ideally by mail, the following parts:**

1. Completed registration form **ON EXCEL FORMAT** with your photo identification.
2. Your ID (National ID Card or Passport)
3. Your Vitale (EKUZ) card (or health insurance certificate, health certificate, repatriation certificate).
4. Your medical certificate of aptitude for your stay and activities at 1800 m altitude
5. This sheet # 5 Volunteer Charter, dated and signed.

**Only applications that include all the documents listed above will be processed !**

### MORAL COMMITMENT

- "I acknowledge that I have read and understood this Charter for Volunteer 2025 and I declare that I accept and abide by the principles expressed therein, as well as the conditions of stay for the service I will volunteer for the Sanctuary Notre-Dame de La Salette :

**from \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2026 to \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2026.**

- I pledge to respect the "Charter of the Volunteer 2026", as well as the conditions and instructions that will be presented to me in order to serve the pilgrims and to promote a good team spirit and group
- **I undertake to comply with the measures and instructions relating to the fight against the spread of COVID, in force throughout the national territory.**

**☞ Red and approved on: .....**

**☞ Signature.....**

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