

Service Learning in Rwanda
YOUNG JUDAEA & FZY YEAR COURSE
AT AGAHOZO-SHALOM YOUTH VILLAGE
COR 192Y
(3 credits)

Introduction:

This educational opportunity is open only to Tikkun Olam/Rwanda participants. In addition to the special experience of volunteering in the Youth Village, the students can complete additional assignments in order to receive 3 credits.

Course Requirements:

25% Attendance and Participation: at the educational preparation(pre-trip) and at the village
40% regular Journal entries and final reflection
25% Oral Presentation either given in advance or during the journey
10% 2 page summary of oral presentation.

Keeping a Journal:

Participants are expected to make journal entries at least 2 times per week during the experience in Rwanda, including a two-page final reflection at the culmination of the experience. This reflection should address questions such as

- What impact have I made on the village?
- What impact has the village made on me?
- What advice would you give to a future volunteer at the Youth Village?

PROGRAMMING & EDUCATION

Programming – to create educational and volunteering programs consistent with YC ideology, and appropriate to ASYV (AGAHOZO-SHALOM YOUTH VILLAGE) needs and capabilities.

Education:

Pre trip:

- History of Rwanda and ASYV – required readings
- Rwandan Culture
 - Guest speakers
- Importance of Listening
- Working with sensitive populations
- Communication
- Behavior and Decorum – our actions reflect upon us and where we come from

In Rwanda:

- Farming and Judaism
- Water – the importance of it, the need for innovation, how it was brought to the village
- Tikkun Olam
- Or L’Goyim

- Tzedakah – Deciding Who to Help
- Justice
- Connections between Israel and Rwanda
- The meaning of service – how it can be useful

Follow Up:

- Speaking about what we did/saw/learned
- Writing about what we did/saw /learned
- Committing to activism during the rest of YC and beyond
- Becoming a spokesperson on campus

Rwanda - Land of a Thousand Hills

Rwanda has received considerable international attention due to two tragic happenings that have occurred in it during the 20th century: the 1994 genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed and the personal story of the famous gorillas researcher, Dian Fossey that was killed in the Rwandans' rain forests by her rivals in 1985. Since then the country has made a recovery and is now considered as a model for developing countries. In 2009 A CNN report labeled Rwanda as Africa's biggest success story, having achieved stability, economic growth (average income has tripled in the past ten years) and international integration.

Rwanda is a small country (the same size of the state of Israel), it's the most populated country in Africa - 10 million people but also one of the most educated (over 70% literate). located near the center of Africa, it is separated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Lake Kivu to the west; it is bounded on the north by Uganda, to the east by Tanzania, and to the south by Burundi. The capital, Kigali, is located in the center of the country. Rwanda's countryside is covered by grasslands and small farms extending over rolling hills and slopes, therefore the country is also fondly known as "Land of a Thousand Hills". The weather is pretty much the same throughout the year with 22-27degrees Celsius during the day, in the dry seasons (the two wet seasons are from March to May and from October to November).

Rwanda's economy is still almost virgin in terms of industrialization, foreign investment, and engagement with international markets. The country's main exports are tea, coffee, and minerals.

Rwanda leads the region in terms of ICT adoption and infrastructure development. The country has 100% mobile telecommunication coverage.

The transport system in Rwanda centers primarily on the road network, with paved roads between the capital, Kigali and most other major cities and towns in the country. The country has an international airport at Kigali, serving one domestic and several international destinations.

Agahozo Shalom youth village

Established in 2007, the ASYV provides the basic human needs of food, shelter, and protection in order to meet the needs of traumatized youth still struggling with the aftereffects of genocide and also prepare these youth to take on leadership roles in their society and enable them to move towards the mending of the world beyond them. ASYV integrates two central elements – the living environment and the learning environment.

Modeled like the Ymin Orde youth village (where YC students volunteered), the village includes Residential housing in a group-home model, Comprehensive computer technology, including WiFi Internet access throughout the village, an art center, a dining room, a health clinic and more.

The village enjoys a sustainable agricultural farm that provides almost all of its needs (based on Israeli agriculture knowledge that volunteers brought with them), and

Volunteers are living in their own area, with running water (not heated) in the shower and indoor bathrooms, eating with the students 3 meals a day (vegetarian food) and are becoming part of the village life.

Physical Conditions:

Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village provides a safe, structured environment for its students and all visitors. Young Judaea Year Course students will be housed in groups of four. Each room has shelves, drawers, a private bathroom and shower and comes with cleaning supplies. Each set of two rooms has a small sink area and an electric kettle for boiling water. There is usually hot water for showers, but this cannot be guaranteed.

The water at the village can be boiled for drinking. Most of the food comes from our farm and is largely vegan. Separate dishes can be used to accommodate kashrut needs.

The entire village is fenced in, and there is 24-hour surveillance and security at the village. Life at the village requires a significant amount of walking on dirt paths; the visitor housing is a 10-minute walk from the dining hall. The school is about 10 minutes further, up hill.

Agahozo-Shalom is located in the eastern region of Rwanda, one hour east of Kigali, the capital city. The nearest village is called Rubona. It is 20 minutes down the road. Rubona has village days twice a week, where one can purchase fruits, vegetables and cloth. The nearest larger town (that you can find on google maps) is Rwamagana.

SCHEDULE FOR A SAMPLE WEEK IN RWANDA:

Sunday	
7:30 AM	Breakfast in Volunteer Quarters
8:00 AM	Leave for a day trip
1:00 PM	Packed Lunch on Trip
3:30 PM	Return to the village
5:00 PM	Activity for Village led by YJYC
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:00 PM	Thorns and Roses
Monday	
6:30 AM	Breakfast with Village
7:00 AM	Morning Check In
8:00 AM	Volunteer Service Project/Farming
11:00 AM	Learning Session – discussion with village staff member(s)
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:45 PM	Volunteer Work
4:00 PM	EPs (After School Activities)
5:30 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:00 PM	Student Clubs
9:00 PM	Learning Session
10:15PM	Thorns and Roses
Tuesday	
6:30 AM	Breakfast with Village
7:00 AM	Morning Check In
8:00 AM	Volunteer Service Project/Farming
11:00 AM	Walk to Rubona Village
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:45 PM	Volunteer Work
4:00 PM	EPs (After School Activities)
5:30 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:00 PM	Student Clubs
9:00 PM	Family Time
10:15 PM	Thorns and Roses
Wednesday	
6:30 AM	Breakfast with Village
7:00 AM	Morning Check In
8:00 AM	Volunteer Service Project/Farming
11:00 AM	Learning Session
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:45 PM	Volunteer Work
4:00 PM	EPs (After School Activities)
5:30 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:00 PM	Student Clubs
9:00 PM	Movie Night
11:00 PM	Thorns and Roses
Thursday	

6:30 AM	Breakfast with Village
7:00 AM	Morning Check In
8:00 AM	Volunteer Service Project/Farming
11:00 AM	Learning Session
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:45 PM	Volunteer Work
4:00 PM	EPs (After School Activities)
5:30 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:00 PM	Student Clubs
9:00 PM	Family Time
10:15 PM	Thorns and Roses
Friday	
6:30 AM	Breakfast at ASYV
7:00 AM	Morning Check In
8:00 AM	Challah Baking with Kitchen Staff
10:30 AM	Volunteer Service Project/Farming
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:30 PM	Volunteer Service Project
3:30 PM	Prepare for Shabbat
4:45 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat in Volunteer Quarters
6:00 PM	Village Time
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
7:45 PM	Night Walk or other Evening Activity
8:15 PM	Oneg Shabbat – Group Reflection & Learning Session
10:00 PM	Thorns and Roses
Saturday	
6:30 AM	Breakfast at ASYV
8:00 AM	Shabbat Services/Learning Session
10:00 AM	Shabbat M'nucha
1:00 PM	Lunch with Village Youth
1:45 PM	Help on Farm
5 :00PM	Se'udah Shlishit, Singing
7:00 PM	Dinner with Village Youth
8:15 PM	Evening Event with Village
10:00 PM	Thorns and Roses

ADDITIONAL EXCURSIONS:

The Kigali Memorial Centre

A must for all visitors in Rwanda wanting to learn more about how the world watched as genocide unfolded in this tiny country in 1994. The centre stands as a permanent memorial to the victims, built on a site where over 250,000 people are buried; it is a place where many people who lost loved ones go to remember and grieve. More than a memorial for Rwanda, this is a memorial for all of us, marking the many genocides around the world that never should have come to pass.