

About ARCTUROS

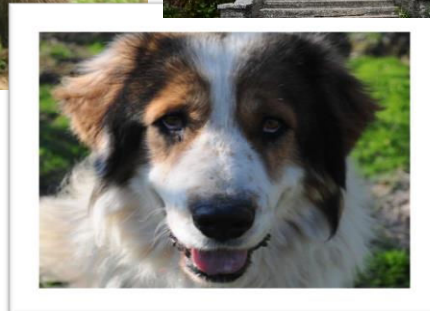
Founded in 1992, **ARCTUROS** is a Greek environmental not-for-profit civil organization located in the prefecture of Florina, Western Macedonia. The aim of ARCTUROS is to protect and manage the natural environment of Greece and its wildlife by focusing on the protection of native large mammals. More specifically, ARCTUROS emphasizes towards the conservation and management of mountainous ecosystems in Greece and the Balkans by focusing on endangered, key species such as the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and various ungulates. After 30 years of active conservation activities, ARCTUROS has contributed the utmost towards the protection of the natural environment in Greece and the Balkans, as well as towards the reduction of conflicts between humans and wildlife. From its headquarters at the International Environmental Centre, with its modern exhibition and educational facilities, ARCTUROS raises public awareness and promotes the sustainable development of rural communities and their surrounding environment.

The International Centre acts additionally as a modern Centre of Environmental Education and Public Awareness that includes:

I) the **Bear Sanctuary, the Brown bear information Centre** and a pedagogical workshop called ARCTURAKIA (meaning young ARCTUROS fans) targeting children 4-12 years old, located at the village of Nymphaio

II) the **Wolf Sanctuary, Wolf Information Centre, the Greek Sheepdog Breeding and Distribution Centre and the Orphan Bear Rehabilitation Centre** all four facilities located at the village of Agrapida, and

III) the **Veterinary Station for Large Carnivores and the Volunteers quest house** both located at the village of Aetos village.



Placements at the Greek sheep Dog Breeding Center:

Autumn 2022- Summer 2023: 9 months

Description of the Center

The **Greek Shepherd Dog Breeding and Redistribution Centre** breeds and distributes dogs to livestock farmers in areas with bear/wolf presence. ARCTUROS promotes the use of livestock guarding dogs as a human-wildlife conflict mitigation measure. Since 1998, when the program was launched, ARCTUROS has distributed more than 1,500 dogs to shepherds that have been involved conflicts with large carnivores.



The aim of the project is to strengthen the protection of the brown bear and grey wolf (both endangered and protected species) and simultaneously will be enhanced the shepherd livestock and the race of the Greek Shepherd Dog where it was almost near to extinction a few years ago. The breeding program is implemented in modern facilities in Agrapidia village in Florina region, which includes 10-12 breeding areas and a common exercise area.

The volunteers will participate in activities such as:

- Feeding and daily care for the 15 dogs of the Center
- Cleaning the premises, equipment, dogs grooming
- Dogs training and daily walks/exercise with the dogs
- Visits to veterinarians (where necessary)
- Care of the Greek sheepdog puppies

Other upkeep duties

- Assist in wolves feeding (twice a week) and cleaning Wolf Sanctuary from bones and food leftovers once a month (Wolf Sanctuary is next to Greek dog Breeding and distributing Center)
- Cleaning the surrounding area (from rubbish) of the center and also the local river once a month
- Harvest fruits from the trees from the surrounding area, once a week (the period end of spring-beginning of summer)
- Visit a shepherd (if needed) and check the dog livings conditions on the farmers that have taken a puppy from ARCTUROS (on-site check control)
- Watering the trees of the center (every day)



ARCTUROS Environmental Centre_ Florina prefecture

Why I will choose the project/Benefits

- Gain work experience in animal care and veterinary assistance (proper management and care to ensure dog welfare).
- Be informed about the selection process of distributing puppies to rural areas.
- Enhance the team working spirit
- Learn about Environmental management practices and sustainability. How volunteers can contribute to environmental protection.
- Learn new language and culture (Greek language and civilization, customs, traditions etc.)
- Meet new people from all over the world, enhance socialize, networking, interpersonal and social interactions abilities



- Develop communications skill
- Improve English linguistic level
- Enhance responsibility and be motivated through the sense of achievement
- Enhance strategic thinking and implementation (why, how, where)

Within the obligations of the volunteer are:

- Respect the daily schedule (9am to 5pm)
- To maintain the house clean and leave it so
- To deliver the keys to the officer on departure
- Follow the daily program
- Inform for any change on the planned participation
- Tetanus vaccination
- Negative PCR COVID test (2 days before the arrival)



Volunteers who will participate in the project will be treated equally as ARCTUROS employees, on voluntary service (40 hours per week, taking responsibility and tasks within volunteer's consent). The volunteer will have the same opportunities, the same training, and the same acceptance by ARCTUROS's team as an employee or co-volunteer has.

Work will take place in a safe environment and the necessary material resources will be provided to volunteers to perform their duties (work clothes/uniforms, hygiene measures such as disposable gloves, wellingtons boots, provision of record forms/computer/printer/ internet for research).



Applicants to the ARCTUROS project:

- Must be 18-30 years old
- Have the willingness to contribute to Environmental protection through ARCTUROS project
- Willingness to work in the environment with animals (Animal Care, Veterinary Assistance). Be comfortable with and not scared of dogs. Greek sheepdogs are one of the largest breeds of dogs and require particular care. Of course, volunteers will not be required to approach or work with dogs considered 'difficult'.
- Be willing to carry out manual tasks, such as cleaning the dog's living areas.
- Be in good physical condition. Walking each dog takes between 20 and 30 minutes and takes place on rough country paths and mountain trails.
- Be cooperative with staff and other volunteers, have the willingness to work in a team
- Be willing to work outside in the heat, in summer, and in the cold and rain in winter
- Have a passion for their work and be initiative
- Have a work ethic
- Think creatively and be willing to carry out multiple tasks
- Be adapted/ flexible and coping with new challenges
- Share responsibility for living together with a multinational team of volunteers and under various conditions
- Have to know English (at least basic) in order to communicate with the other members of the team
- It is not required volunteers to have specific educational or professional qualifications

ARCTUROS for Volunteer:

- Provides free accommodation in a guesthouse and a free transport service on the premises
- Does not charge volunteers a fee for participation
- Raises awareness about specific environmental issues
- Awards a certificate of participation for 60 hours of volunteering and help volunteer to fill in *YOUTHPASS*
- Accept volunteer over 18 years old-30 years old
- Provides insurance coverage in the event of an accident
- Provide a pocket money on monthly basis paid through ESC project and also provide food allowance.

Accommodation: The volunteers are hosted in the hostel for volunteers situated at the village of Aetos down at the valley (Florina region). The house can host 9 to 10 persons in a common area without separate rooms. It has bedroom, main living room, two baths and a fully equipped kitchen. Aetos is a small and quiet village (up to 800 people approximately) but someone can find anything will need (2 supermarkets, pharmacy, pizzeria, cafeteria).

Pocket money: 5 euros/day

Food: 40 euros/week

For more information please contact: epontiki@arcturos.gr

Volunteers/Participants testimonies

<https://fb.watch/aFmtn3HBOL/>

<https://fb.watch/aFBpPpda-M/>

<https://www.facebook.com/page/2148402855390683/search/?q=wernet>

<https://www.facebook.com/ESCAruba/posts/2978425915721702>

About ARCTUROS organization:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7kMBHrUBuk&t=8s>

Below is a video with Melina Avgerinou the Animal rescue and Care Manager in the Center, who is the supervisor/trainer of volunteers in ESC project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTcD9v2zfwc>

More links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwVcGf209IE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpJwTb1px-o>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQB_RGzIBMY&t=44s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROwtoRA3FhA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFr8zvi6fWQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nax9o2XUTM>