



Volunteering with

What does Red Earth do?

Red Earth partners with Traditional Owners in Cape York, Central Australia and Arnhem Land, and assists them in hosting groups on their land. Groups spend 10 days doing cultural activities, completing a project on a homeland, visiting sacred sites & spend time having a yarn with the Traditional Owners of the land. In doing so, they develop a genuine connection with the Traditional people and the country they live on.

Red Earth specialises in unique experiences that are not available outside of this setting. We foster one-on-one relationships with the Traditional Owners we work with and are the only external group to have access to the homelands we visit.

Red Earth also spends time preparing the groups for their travel to remote Indigenous Australia, and sends leaders and volunteers with the groups to help facilitate the experience.

What will you do as a volunteer?

As a Red Earth volunteer, you will be working alongside a Red Earth leader, in conjunction with Traditional Owners, to deliver a cultural immersion experience for a group of people from a major Australian city.

Once in community, you will stay on homelands with Traditional Owners, and spend time undertaking cultural & spiritual activities, swimming in waterfalls and getting to know the locals. Your role will be to support the leader and the Traditional Owners as needed, and to soak up the experience of living in remote Indigenous Australia!

What will you get out of the experience?

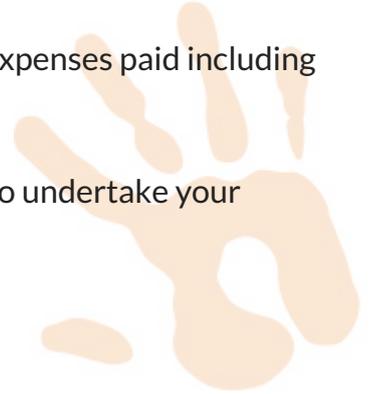
You will have the opportunity to get to know Traditional Owners in their own backyard, and hear from them first-hand about their culture, history, challenges and the importance of living on their country.

You will get to visit some of Australia's most remote communities, with all expenses paid including flights.

Red Earth will provide you with all the training and qualifications required to undertake your immersion including:

- Attending a Training and Induction Weekend
- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Drive & Recover a 4WD Certificate

At the conclusion of your immersion, Red Earth will also provide you with a formal letter of reference to acknowledge your time working with us.





Application criteria

Please note that to volunteer for Red Earth, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be available for one of our group interview dates – see information below
- Be 21 years or older on 1 April 2019
- Be based in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane
- Hold a full manual drivers' licence
- Be eligible to get a Volunteers Working with Children Check
- Be available to travel on an immersion in 2019
- Be available to attend a training weekend in Sydney – 10th-12th May, 2019 (travel will be organised & paid for by Red Earth)

Interviews

The Red Earth General Manager & Red Earth Operations Manager will be conducting group interviews in Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane on the dates listed below. If you are interested in applying to volunteer with Red Earth, please note that you must be able to attend one of our nominated interview dates.

In the interview, applicants will be required to complete a series of tasks & asked questions relating to skills which will be useful on an immersion. The interview will take roughly 1 hour, and there will be plenty of time for questions.

Dates

Sydney – Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th December, 2018

Melbourne – Sunday 16th December, 2018

Brisbane – Saturday 15th December, 2018

Locations & interview times will be emailed to applicants who are invited to attend the interviews.

To apply for a volunteer position with Red Earth in 2019, please complete our Online Expression of Interest – <http://www.reo.net.au/volunteer-application-form/>



Frequently Asked Questions

What is life like on an Immersion?

Volunteering on an immersion is not a stroll in the park – it is hard work, long days and in most regions, very warm conditions! You will be supported by your immersion leader, and in some regions also a Regional Manager. Even so, be prepared to be tired, sweaty, dirty but hopefully fulfilled by the important work you are doing.

How long does an immersion last?

Your immersion will be between 9-13 days. Before the immersion, Red Earth will also organise for you to visit the school or group you are travelling with in a Pre-Departure Session, which usually takes place one afternoon.

Do I need to have experience working with Indigenous communities?

Some experience working with young people and/or indigenous people is beneficial but certainly not essential. Red Earth will provide you with training and information about Indigenous Australia before you leave, to help prepare you to visit the communities on your immersion.

Can I arrange travel before or after my immersion?

Yes, if you would like to fly up early or return a little later from your immersion, the Red Earth office team can help to organise this for you. If fares are more expensive on your preferred travel date or time, all we require is that you pay the difference.

Do I have to fundraise to participate?

No, you do not have to raise any funds for the immersion. Your trip will be paid for in full by Red Earth. Group members attending the immersion often fundraise for projects, however volunteers are not required to be part of this process.

What makes a good volunteer?

A good volunteer can come from any background so long as they are enthusiastic about seeing people learn about Indigenous Australia. Our best volunteers are ready to get their hands dirty and jump into any tasks needed, while also helping facilitate relationships between the immersion group and our Indigenous hosts.

Do I need to have experience working outdoors?

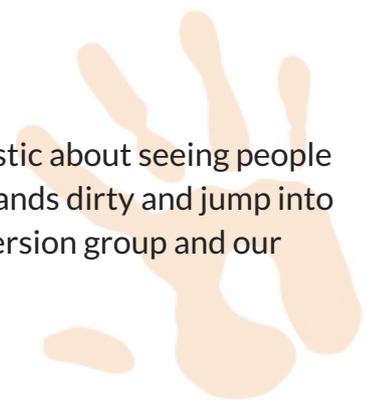
Experience working in the outdoors is not essential, but some basic camping skills are beneficial. We have had volunteers from all walks of life come and travel with us, from Teachers to Doctors, Outdoor Educators to Tradies – the best Red Earth volunteers are the ones who come with a ‘get in and give it a go’ attitude, regardless of their background!

Can I choose which region I volunteer in?

No, you cannot choose which region you get assigned to. You are welcome to request a specific region or time of year, however due to staffing constraints, immersions will be offered to volunteers based on the Red Earth schedule and the volunteers’ location. We will endeavour to take into account any requests, but cannot guarantee that your first preference will be given.

If I can't make the training weekend, can I still participate?

No, the training weekend is compulsory and if you cannot make it, you will not be able to come on a Red Earth immersion in 2019.





Testimonials

“Volunteering with Red Earth was a huge privilege. I was able to engage with an ancient and ongoing culture, in an environment where community members were passionate about sharing their stories and welcoming you on to their land. I cannot recommend this experience highly enough.”

Madison, 26, Volunteer in Cape York

“I first encountered the Red Earth Volunteer Program after hearing about it through my university. I applied and was so thankful to be placed on an immersion to Cape York. My experience as a volunteer was grand! I felt appreciated and supported every step of the way. Personally, I grew not only as a leader but as an Australian. Overall, the opportunities I had with Red Earth would never have been offered to me in any other context. Therefore, if you are considering applying to volunteer, I say do it! You'll never have a chance again to experience the beautiful landscapes and strong connections to country and people as you would anywhere else in the world.”

Rocky, 24, Volunteer in Cape York

“Volunteering with Red Earth took me to places that I would have never been able to get to on my own. The volunteering experience allowed me a connection with community and a chance to build relationships that will last a lifetime. I know I can always go back and be welcomed with open arms.”

Ash, 27, Volunteer in Central Australia