

Dear friends,

I am writing on behalf of the S. A. de Xestión do Plan XACOBEO, the Autonomous Community of Galicia organization in charge of overseeing the Way of St. James. We are currently examining the preservation of certain values which have historically been associated with the pilgrimage route. One of these established values is hospitality.

The company has an extensive network of hostels that take in pilgrims along the different routes that make up the Way of St. James. We are seeking to improve how pilgrims are received at these establishments by bringing in volunteers to assist hostel keepers in welcoming pilgrims staying at these hostels.

Consequently, this position does not involve hostel cleaning or maintenance duties. Rather, it is intended to welcome pilgrims, share their experience, discuss their concerns, etc. The ultimate goal is for pilgrims, especially those from other countries, to feel more welcome at our hostels, improving the quality of their pilgrimage experience and reinforcing the multinational dimension of the Way of St. James.

Enclosed with this letter is a list of hostels where there is a room available exclusively for volunteers, affording them the necessary privacy. Also enclosed are basic guidelines for implementing this hospitality project, as well as the rules of operation for hostels in the public network.

Associations interested in participating in this experience can choose the locations and dates of interest to them. Requests will be considered strictly in the order they are received. The company makes these facilities available to volunteers and provides insurance coverage for each person taking part in this programme. Implementation of this programme is subject to the signing of an agreement between the company and the corresponding Friends of the Camino de Santiago association.

We are confident that this initiative will be positively received. It will contribute to reinforcing the necessary collaboration between Friends of the Camino de Santiago associations and the Xunta de Galicia, and especially, to the hospitality offered to pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela.

Yours faithfully,

Rafael Sánchez Bargiela

Director/Manager