

Threads of Peru is seeking volunteers for the following positions:

1. Textiles Project Assistant

This position is for someone who has experience in international / community development, and/or university training in a related field. An interest in women's issues or textiles and/or weaving experience would be an advantage, but not necessary.

Roles

- You will be working on a new, exciting community development project, and will have the opportunity to assist in the future direction of the project.
- You will be required to teach Peruvian staff (in a series of workshops) elements of development theory.
- You will need to be involved in website development.
- Overseeing of workshops and development of capacitation workshops for indigenous peoples.
- Document the execution of projects, and develop methods for evaluation
- Plan future projects
- Making connections & contacts within the weaving community for ToP
- Assist in promoting the aims and objectives of ToP within Cusco.

A minimum commitment of 6 months. Spanish proficiency will be required, but will also be working with translators for Quechua - Spanish translation. You must be able to work alone and without supervision and be willing to endure harsh conditions. Location: Cusco area, Sacred Valley, rural communities.

2. Textiles Project - Quality Control Person"

This position is for someone with experience, interest or expertise in textiles and/or fashion. A quality control person will assist the TOP textiles project by working closely with indigenous women weavers to ensure their product details are considered (such as, trimming off loose threads, making sure fringes are finished, making sure products are washed / dried properly - that all product details required for retail orders are considered and items are ready to be tagged and shipped). You will be in charge of making sure women have proper tools, such as scissors, needle & thread, and you will show them how to use tools they are not familiar with.

*If you have experience in fashion design, you may be able to assist the women in the design of products and finishing techniques of things such as bags, wallets, belts, etc. - working closely with the local weaving workshop teacher and the presidents of the 3 weaving associations.

* We recommend that you stay for at least 1 month (preferably more), but we can arrange a placement for 2 - 3 weeks (no less). Must be able to speak Spanish, and you will be working with Quechua translators as most of the women only speak this language. You will be based in Cusco and TOP can assist you in finding accommodations - you will also be required to stay / camp in remote villages in cold basic conditions.

3. Environmental Study of Natural Dyes

This is a role for a person who has sufficient training (at a university level) and experience in carrying out environmental studies. Threads of Peru is interested in the study of the environmental affects of working with local plant, insect, and mineral dyes used in the region. This would make a great thesis project.

Roles

- Investigate the different types of natural dye ingredients and processes.
- Research various processes and recipes.
- Deliver written study to Threads of Peru.
- Work with local university laboratory and professors
- Must provide all necessary equipment

You must be fluent in Spanish and English. Must be able to work alone. Location: Cusco area.

4. Natural Dyes Recipe Book - Documentation of Natural Dying Recipes

The Andean people have ancient traditions of naturally dying their cloth. Weavers are constantly coming up with new recipes for natural dying processes. Most of these concoctions are passed on through memory and word of mouth. Threads of Peru would like to document these natural dying methods. This will be an ever-expanding book of dying recipes from the Sacred Valley region of Peru.

Minimum period of 6 months. Must be fluent in Spanish and English. Have excellent research and documentation skills. Training and experience in a related field. Location: Cusco area.

5. Architect / Construction Engineer / or Builder

Threads of Peru is seeking an architect / construction engineer / or builder with some design experience to assist them in the development of weaving houses in remote communities. The successful applicant would need to have some experience working in rural and remote environments and be prepared to spend considerable amounts of time in the communities in the planning stages, firstly picking a suitable site and then establishing with the community land ownership and usage. We also anticipate that the weaving houses might have communal purposes - not simply weaving shelters, but communal meeting places and perhaps campsites.

The final structures would also need to be built mainly using local materials, because of budget and for aesthetic purposes (i.e. adobe walls, eucalyptus poles, faja (straw) roofs.)

The buildings would be built using 'faena' labour - that is, that all members of the community working together for several days until the structures were completed. The planning and siting stages of this project would take longer than the actual building. This project could be done in 2 months, but 3 - 4 would be preferred and would need to be in the drier months (i.e. March through October).

6. Product designer(s) and/or waste management for proper bathroom facilities

Threads of Peru is seeking product designer(s) and/or waste management experts to volunteer in the research and design of better bathroom facilities in the communities where we work. Depending on the community, this may be a renovation of the existing toilets they have into composting toilets, bathroom structures that let in more light, that are easier to keep clean, less concrete more local materials, etc. Our goal is to create facilities that are more aesthetically pleasing and fit better into the local landscape - unlike those made with concrete that are dark, cold, dirty, and that no one ends up using. The structure should be a very simple design and more people friendly. A proper waste management system should be designed to suit the community(s) and it must be environmentally safe.

The final structures would also need to be built mainly using local materials, because of budget and for aesthetic purposes (i.e. adobe walls, eucalyptus poles, faja (straw) roofs.)

The structures may be built using 'faena' labour - that is, that all members of the community working together for several days until the structures were completed.

The successful applicant(s) should have some experience working in rural and remote environments and be prepared to spend considerable amounts of time in the communities in the planning stages.

This would make a great student or group project. This project would involve an assessment / study of the community and its environmental factors before construction starts. TOP is open to project proposals from groups or universities.

7. Administrator

This is a position for the assistance in accounting, administration and organisation of a newly formed NGO. You need to have accounting experience and the ability to teach Peruvian people working in the NGO how to operate a business.

Roles

- Working with lawyers and accountants on NGO applications
- Teaching NGO staff accounting practices
- Using accounting programs
- Setting up good business administration structures so the program is self sufficient upon departure.
- Document what you have taught, so future Administration volunteers can build one what you have established.

This is an accounting and capacitation role. You need to speak fluent and comprehensive Spanish. Minimum commitment of 1 month. Location: Cusco. This position does not require visits to the remote communities, but can certainly be incorporated into your work, if you wish.

8. Journalists, Photographers and Writers

This is a position for professional journalists and photographers with established reputations and a folio of published articles.

We will offer you a free on day trip in exchange for a published article or photo story. This is a mutually beneficial project because the visits to the communities make an excellent story and photos, and will be an attractive addition to any folio.

Minimum period of 1-2 days, with commitment to have something published about the project. Does not need to speak Spanish, but must be fluent in the language you are writing in. We are very open to people who write in languages other than English! Location: Cusco area.

9. Independent Film / Video Project

This is a volunteer position for professional film makers or videographers, or film / video / multimedia students. After an introduction to Threads of Peru and a visit to the communities where we work, you can propose to us your idea for a film project. You may propose an idea before coming to Peru, or we can suggest ideas based on our work and interests in the communities.

This is a mutually beneficial project where TOP will use the film/video to promote our development work or create awareness around specific issues that we or locals face in the communities - and a video or film project that's based on the people and culture in rural communities where we work will make a compelling story and will be an amazing addition to any portfolio, and TOP will use the film/video for promotional purposes.

* Minimum period of 1 month in Peru, with commitment to share finished product with TOP.

You do not need to speak Spanish, but you must speak English - we are also very open to people who speak in languages other than English, but project must have English translation/subtitles.

Location: Cusco area, rural mountain communities. please see this link: <http://www.threadsofperu.com/weaving-culture/communities/>

10. Community Health Project Coordinator

Threads of Peru works in remote Andean communities with women's groups, and we view that one of the key ways of addressing health issues, malnutrition and sickness in children is via the capacitation and education of the mothers. At this stage, Threads of Peru only offers monthly talks with experts, and overall we require more comprehensive knowledge of health projects. This placement should begin with conducting check ups on all community members to assess their health and identify any major illnesses or symptoms.

This position is for a minimum of 6 months. You need to have intermediate Spanish or the desire to take intensive Spanish classes in the first 1-2 months of your stay in Peru. You will be based in Cusco, Peru with frequent visits to remote communities, and therefore be prepared for cold and basic conditions.

This project is for someone with a degree, and preferably a minimum of 2-3 years of working experience in medicine, nutrition, community health, or nursing. You will be required to work independently and creatively, in developing new and innovative programs.

11. Cusco Promotions

For someone in Cusco for a short time (*minimum 5 days - 2 hours per day*) but wants to help out a local NGO. You don't need to speak much Spanish for this role, but need a good sense of direction and a big smile.

Roles

- Distribute postcards, bookmarks and fliers
- Develop comprehensive list / map (for future volunteers) to distribute
- If you have design experience you might also be invited to design posters or fliers that you can later distribute.
- Post on your blog, facebook page about your experiences, with links to Threads of Peru.
- Write short stories or experience pieces and post them on the web.

Your reward for your work is that you will be invited to make a visit to one or some of the remote communities where we work in order to better understand the project. (Only if it fits in with pre-existing schedule)

Basic Spanish would be of assistance. Location: Cusco

12. Volunteer Coordinator

This position is for a sociable person who has exceptional leadership skills, and who is very well organized. You need to be able to work independently, grasp concepts quickly, and provide guidance to others that may be outside of their comfort zone.

Roles

- Coordinates the volunteers related to Apus Peru / Threads of Peru
- Organises orientation and training in Peru
- Assists volunteers with finding accommodation
- Liaises between the volunteer and the project
- Developing new volunteer positions that are thoroughly researched and elaborated.

Needs 1 year minimum commitment. Location: Cusco or the Sacred Valley. Must be fluent in Spanish & English.

13. Wholesale / Retail Development

Threads of Peru is seeking a motivated, self directed volunteer who has experience in wholesale to retail stores. Someone who can seek out opportunities (in Peru or in their own country) in retail, develop connections, and create the orders to the community. This is a complex position and requires someone who has sufficient experience in this field.

If working within Peru, it is anticipated that this position might involve a considerable amount of travel (i.e. to boutique style stores in Puno, Arequipa, Lima and even to the north of Peru). You would need to be accurate and exact in documenting your approaches to different stores, their response and possible follow up details for future volunteers. The ability to speak Spanish will be required if you are working in Peru.

If you believe you can assist in developing wholesale / retail positions in your own country, you should contact us first with information about your country, and pertinent experience.

This position would require a minimum commitment of 6 months, and quite possibly would require "follow up" once the actual period of volunteering ends.

The following positions do not necessarily require travel:

If you do not travel to Peru, these positions do not require a donation or fee - Most likely your work will be coordinated from Canada.

Social Media Guru

Someone who has an interest in online social media, who can seek out online promotional opportunities for Threads of Peru.

Website Translator

From English to Spanish (first priority). If you are fluent in English and any other major language (German, French, Dutch, Italian, Japanese, Chinese...) then we invite you to also make us a proposition. If you are offering to make a different language translation then you need to ensure that you finish the job, as the website is large and comprehensive!

Grant Writer

Do you have experience in grant writing? This position can be based in or outside of Peru. You do not need to speak Spanish, but you do need proven expertise in successful grant applications. Remuneration for grant writing will be open to negotiation, and depends on your prior experience and success rate. Remuneration will be on a % basis.

Roles

- Identify possible funding sources for the present, and for the future (grant rounds end at different times of the year, it would be beneficial to have a calendar for future volunteers)
- Write grants

Form your own TOP Support Group

Do you want to help from afar? Then you can form your own TOP support group! Get together with your club, church, or friends and purchase a minimum of \$500 of product. You then sell the items at your local fair, and send the proceeds back to Peru. You also work promoting the work of TOP in your local area. Receive a 20% discount off the TOP Weaving tour if you form a successful group (one that operates for one year or more, with more than 5 members!)

Threads of Peru will provide you will the necessary promotional and communication materials.

If you are interested in any of our volunteer positions please contact Ariana Svenson at ariana@threadsofperu.com to discuss which position you are interested in. If the position is open, you will be given an application form, which you will fill out online and submit for approval.

Volunteer cost

Threads of Peru charges a fee of \$50 per week for most volunteer placements. Note: Please contact us about group rates. While we realize that you will be contributing your time and knowledge, we are a small organization, and it takes people, time, and effort to provide you with ample and valuable support for your volunteer position.

In exchange for this fee we will provide:

- * Airport pickup (if required)
- * Initial meeting with Director of Threads of Peru designed to give an overview of company, projects, and briefing on cultural norms in Peru.
- * Volunteer Information package on arrival.
- * Assistance in locating appropriate accommodation.
- * Assistance in locating discounted Spanish classes.
- * All costs covered in regards to making field trips with ToP.
- * Personalised reference.
- * 1-2 weekly meetings with the appropriate staff, to discuss the direction of your project.

Volunteer types

In all cases, we are looking for self directed, independent volunteers who will be comfortable working unsupervised and only partially directed in a foreign environment. As each of the positions includes visits to remote communities, you should have reasonable physical fitness and be prepared to camp (or stay in people's very basic houses) at high altitude, in cold and harsh conditions.

Note: If you have an idea for a volunteer placement, project or study please contact us with a proposal. If your project proposal is in line with our goals, we'll gladly organize your efforts.

Volunteer Opportunities with *Apus Peru Adventure Travel Specialists.*

Apus Peru is seeking volunteers for several projects. Expected work time is 4 hours daily, 5 days a week (20 days per month)

We will give a free trek (joining any existing trekking group) for those that commit more than a month of work and will be offered near to the end of your volunteer time. (note: trek time is additional to month's work time). For commitments of more than three months we will offer further incentives as we believe that this length of commitment is best to maximize your personal development and contribution.

Each volunteer will receive

- Airport pickup (if required)
- Initial meeting with Directors of *Apus Peru*, designed to give an overview of company, projects, and briefing on cultural norms in Peru
- Information package on arrival
- Assistance in locating appropriate accommodation
- Assistance in locating discounted Spanish classes
- 1-2 weekly meetings with the appropriate staff, to discuss the direction of your project
- Personalised reference.

All positions and projects are flexible and will be tailored to the volunteer's personal skills and interests.

1. Administration Cusco

- Daily office administration - afternoons from 3pm to 6pm. Answering phone and receiving enquiries in person.
- Update of trek material in Cusco office - that is available for potential clients when they arrive.
- Training Cusco staff in presentation, customer service. In a one month period you will be required to design a course (perhaps 4 modules) and then deliver it.
- Conversational English lessons with staff for 1 hour daily. You do not need to have experience in teaching English, but you do need to be patient and persistent.
- Promotion with events, blogs, Facebook, publicity, link exchanges, etc.
- Website development/assistance/updates. If you have particular design programming experience please contact us directly to discuss developing a program for your time in Cusco.

Minimum period of 3 months. Must be fluent in Spanish and English. Have excellent communication skills. Training and experience in a related field. Location: Cusco area.

3. Environmental advisor

This position is suitable for someone with an environmental degree or someone who is very environmentally conscious. This position involves the training of staff (guides, cooks and muleteers) in environmental sustainability. The Environmental Advisor will participate in several treks, and will provide written recommendations to Apus Peru directors on how to improve sustainability. This role also requires the design of environmental sustainability training packages, and if time permits, the delivery of these training packages.

Minimum period of 1 month. Training and experience in a related field. Good physical condition. Location: Cusco area, with various trekking opportunities.

4. Specialised Tour Leaders

- Yoga instructor (fully qualified)
- Masseuses (with qualifications)
- Photographers (who can teach photography)
- Cooks/chefs (who can teach & improve cooking skills)

Please **contact Ariana at Apus Peru** to discuss packages / incentives offered.