

SCI (Service Civil International) Annual Posting

LEANDER HOUSE, MASSACHUSETTS

Theme of the project: Volunteer Coworkers for Residential Homes for Adults with Disabilities

Location: Great Barrington, Massachusetts, USA

Work start: September 1, annually

Work ends: August 31, annually

Application deadline: Rolling admissions process between January 1 and June 30, annually

Decision date: Decision made within 3 weeks of receiving complete application

Total number of volunteers: 14-18

Project language: English

Local language: English

Short description: Leander House, Inc. is a residential life-sharing organization for adults with developmental disabilities. It is made up of several life-sharing houses in the Southern Berkshire region of New England, which is 2 ½ hours from both New York City and Boston. Some of the houses are located within walking distance to the downtown area of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. One house is situated on a farm, offering outside farm work to the residents and volunteers. In addition to the houseparent(s), each house has a potential capacity of 3 residents and 1-3 volunteer coworkers.

The residents are involved with a busy daily program that includes part-time jobs, therapies, social events and classes such as landwork, eurythmy, singing, art, yoga, juggling, etc. The yearly schedule runs from September through May. The summer months are made up of vacation time and an active summer program. We also have a close relationship with other local life-sharing homes for adults with disabilities, which we see on a daily basis.

Additionally, the volunteers have 6 weeks of vacation per year, during which time they are free to travel, if they choose. There are ample opportunities for the volunteers to socialize with the other volunteers from other local life-sharing homes. The volunteer's primary responsibilities include transportation, direct care of the disabled adults and help in the household with cleaning, cooking, and grounds or farm work. There is also the possibility of the volunteers offering something that they may wish to share (for example, a foreign language class, cooking class, sport club). Trainings while in service include First Aid, CPR, Human Rights, Positive Behavior Support, Fire Safety and a few others. More information can be found on our website at www.leanderhouse.org.

Number of M/LTV openings total: 12-18

Period: 12 months

Qualification: Willingness and ability to help and care for adults with disabilities; ability to work on a team; ability to be left alone and in charge of the household; willingness to join in; Massachusetts-accepted driver's license, at least 6 months driving experience, no criminal history, at least 18 years of age and a graduate of high school or the equivalent. Cooking and cleaning skills are essential. Communication and good social skills are essential. We are a smoking and alcohol-free facility.

Work: There are two kinds of work: 1) helping with the needs of others, and 2) working around the house and property.

Helping with the needs of others may entail helping to bathe someone, or prompting them to do so properly (or doing it for them); helping with other areas of personal hygiene; giving someone or a group of people a ride to a class or other activity; helping someone clean

their room properly (or doing it for them if they are unable to do so themselves); helping someone to do other tasks properly; helping someone to write or read; or going with someone to a play or concert. Working around the house could be repairing something, cleaning, cooking, garden or farm work -- in general, anything that maintains and improves the quality of living for the people who live in Leander House, within your ability to do so.

Accommodation: Small private bedroom with shared bath at no expense to the volunteer.

Free time: 1 free day per week, several free evenings per week, 6 weeks free throughout the year.

Pocket money: \$200 pocket money monthly, all other living expenses paid.