WANTED!
FREELANCE / DESIGN / CODE VOLUNTEER

For our award-winning tech training program on our futurist ICT campus in Turkana, Rural Africa

IT EDUCATION FOR REMOTE AFRICA
LEARNING LIONS

Join our team in one of the most remote areas of East-Africa mentoring a team of young adults on their way to become entrepreneurs on the global digital market. Build up a relationship with bright African minds, and enable them to have a successful career, without having to leave their home region. It will be a live-changing experience!

Full-board and lodging will be provided.

WANTED!

If YOU...

- Have skills in web development/coding, graphic design, animation, film, photography or music production
- Have experience as a freelancer or in sales, marketing, project management, or similar professional skills
- Can commit to at least 8 weeks (ideally three months or more)
- Are willing to share your skills with the less fortunate
- Think positively and like to work in a team
- Are ready to stay in simple living conditions
- Are willing to experience a new and different culture

THEN THIS COULD BE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

THE CHALLENGE

Rural areas across Africa (such as Turkana, North Kenya) often have poor infrastructure, limited access to markets, very few formal job opportunities, and consequently suffer from high levels of unemployment and little opportunity for moving out of poverty. Turkana in particular has infertile soil that does not support sustainable agriculture, with the majority of food supplies having to be transported from cities several hours away. Local businesses including basket weaving, mechanical repairs and small kiosks exist, however none of these scale to provide widespread employment opportunities or meaningful wages. And yet, with around 900.000 inhabitants, Turkana holds an untapped potential of human talent with the chance of having internet access even in some of the most remote areas.

OUR CONCEPT

Learning Lions is a non-profit program that selects, educates and trains young adults living outside urban areas with few job opportunities in high-value skills like software development, graphic design and media production. It is focused on hands-on skills taught by volunteers from around the world that can immediately be used to generate income online. Our follow-up programs Digital Lions (fair trade sales agency) and Startup Lions (startup incubator) then help our trained 'Lions' to use the skills they acquired in their training to earn a living, either by working as digital service providers with Digital Lions or by founding their own projects through Startup Lions. We thus follow a very holistic approach.

YOUR MISSION

As part of the Learning Lions, Digital Lions and Startup Lions team, your mission is to empower the people in their education and income generation activities as much as possible. You want to mentor them, share your skills, lead by example, but always stay in the background and help them to acheive their goals themselves, instead of doing the work for them.

No matter whether you will help in education, sales, fundraising, or other domains of the organisation, your ultimate goal will be to enable talented and motivated young adults to work and live a better life full of perspective in their region of origin.

MENTORING HIGH POTENTIAL YOUTH

You will be working with bright young minds coming from villages of the Turkana region (the poorest region in Kenya) aged between 18 and 25 years old. We select the students not based on their school grades, but using a two-hour IQ test. Of 1.000 participants, we choose only the best 50 to become part of the program.

Our only criteria is a good command of the English language and a high score in the IQ test. Many of them never had access to a computer before.

DIFFERENT FIELDS OF TRAINING

- Web and Mobile Development
- Graphic Design
- Animation (2D/3D) and Film
- Photography
- Project Management

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

THE BASIC TRAINING

Learning Lions offers the selected students a structured learning plan with a specific timeframe and clear learning objectives. In the first 3 months learning period they undergo a curriculum, developed by our partner organization Tunapanda aimed to take people with little or no computer skills to a comparable level of young adults in the developed world, who had much earlier access to computers. The program includes self-paced video tutorials, instructor-led learning and practical training. They learn the basics of programming, graphic design, video and music production.

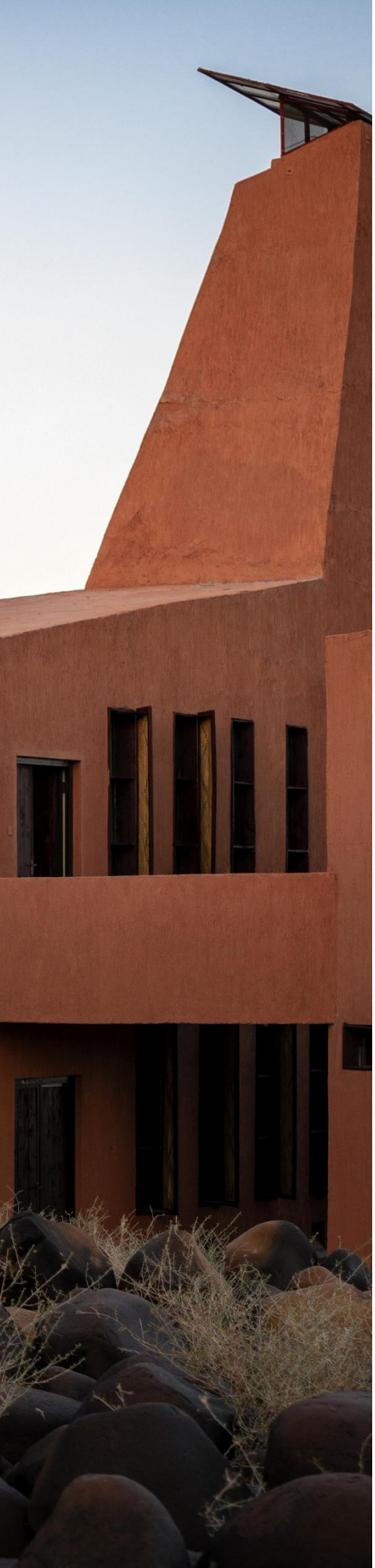
Another very important aspect of this training are the soft skills. Communication, teamwork, time management and presentation skills are boosted.

THE ADVANCED TRAINING

Those students who performed well in the basic training are then invited to stay on campus as trainees of the “Advanced Track” for 6-9 months. Different from the Basic Training, they will now specialise on a skillset that they are most passionate about and most talented in. They will work in an assisted-autodidact learning approach on a set of curriculum modules that will lead them to acquire concrete, sellable skills.

The students will learn how to deliver against a (future) client’s objective within a specific timeframe and collect feedback on the quality of their work and project management ability.

The young Lions have an amazing energy and huge potential. They just need help to transform this energy into a structured form which will help them to build a successful future. That’s where older students and suitable volunteers kick-in as mentors and evaluators of the students work.



LOCATION AND SETUP

After running our pilot project in Turkana county's capital Lodwar, we have moved in 2021 to our new dedicated ICT-Campus in Loropio (Kalimapus area) at the shores of Lake Turkana (Kenya) between Kalokol and Kataboi. At this center our "Lions" can live, learn, train and eventually become entrepreneurs in a campus-like environment that provides them with the best preconditions to make a successful career. As a volunteer, you live and work on the ICT Campus in Loropio, and receive full board and lodging. You have your own bedroom, sharing kitchen and bathroom with other volunteers. The ICT Campus provides you with pretty much everything you need: a place to sleep, work space, a cafeteria, an eco-supermarket, an outside gym, and options for leisure activities.

The Learning Lions program offers you the opportunity to live in one of the most remote regions in the world. The social environment and setting of our project is very young and friendly but it goes without saying that you will not live in luxurious conditions. We reassure you that it will be a life-enriching experience for you from a professional and a personal point of view.

The nearest town is Lodwar, a small city (~50 000 inhabitants) located in the northwest of Kenya and west of Lake Turkana. Most of its population is still following traditional living habits in relatively poor conditions. At the same time, the city is the bustling center of the region with nightclubs, many bars and restaurants. It is a 2-hour car drive away from the ICT center.

As a volunteer, you might want to travel and do some sightseeing on the weekends. Lake Turkana, the world's largest permanent alkaline desert lake located, is right in front of the ICT center and only ten minutes' walk away. The lake is also called the Jade Sea because of its azure-green color. The key attraction is "Central Island" with its three crater lakes – Crocodile Lake, Flamingo Lake and Tilapia Lake and an active volcano. You might even be able to spot some wild animals such as elephants, lions, giraffes or antelopes at the South Turkana National Reserve.

TRAVEL ARR ANGEMENTS

There are several flights per day available from Nairobi to Lodwar from which we would then pick you up by car for the remaining travel to our ICT center. The following companies serve Lodwar airport: Fly 540, Safarilink and Skyward Express. You might also grab a bus, even though this could take a whole day of travel and could potentially more dangerous and troublesome due to some security issues on the road between Eldoret and Lodwar. Of course, we are able to assist with any transportation or organisational matters in case of questions and will be in close contact once you have decided to join us.

Unfortunately, Learning Lions will **generally** not be able to cover the travel costs for volunteers up to Lodwar as our policy strictly follows the approach to invest every dollar only in the direct education of our Lions. Other volunteers managed to get funding through scholarships or donations for their travel expenses. However, should travel costs really be the main hindrance of your stay and you come from socio-economic backgrounds that don't allow you to cover those, we may be able to cover those upon request and on a case-by-case decision.

TIME FRAME

As volunteer, you would be able to start any time. The "Lions" are ready to be mentored and are waiting for your guidance. Concerning the duration, we require that you stay at least 6-8 weeks, even though you will gain more of the experience if you stay 3 or more months. You can easily get a 3-month tourist visa for Kenya, and another 3-month extension.

GET IN TOUCH!

If you think this could be something for you, and like to join us, please fill out our online form at **learninglions.org/volunteer** and send us your CV and a short email to **volunteer@learninglions.org**.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have!

And we would be delighted to welcome you at Learning Lions and are looking forward to share some quality time together with you in rural Africa.

Your team of lions, co-founders and other volunteers

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