



# MITTAGUNDI

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

### **WHY VOLUNTEER AT MITTAGUNDI?**

Mittagundi is a Not For Profit organisation that has provided work experience since we were founded in 1978. It is the perfect place to expand your knowledge, skills and experience in Outdoor Education and working with youth.

Mittagundi is a working Farm (no electricity) as well as an Outdoor Education Centre. The combination of Outdoor Recreation activities and farm work, provides plenty of opportunity to work with our staff and the young people on the program.

### **WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR**

All volunteers are asked to be ***helpful, positive and active***.

Essentially we are after helpers - people who are willing to work along side our staff team and help them achieve the objectives and goals of our unique program.

No experience is needed - just a positive attitude to having a go and being the best role model for young people. You will want to have a passion for working with young people between 14 - 17 years old.

Volunteers not used to working with young people will need to put their best effort into being a positive role model. We do provide the opportunity for people to start from scratch, and Mittagundi may be the first experience working with

young people. However Volunteers who are negative, unhelpful and plain lazy towards the experience will be asked to leave at their own expense. Everyone deserves an experience but not one that upsets what we are trying to achieve.

## **WHAT VOLUNTEERS MIGHT DO AT MITTAGUNDI**

This depends on what we are working on at the time and the particular skills of the Volunteer. The type of help we ask of Volunteers is quite varied and not limited to the list provided below:

- Help Staff on our overnight Bush Walks
- Catering
- Farm work (e.g. fencing, gardening, weeding)
- Supervision of the young people
- Supervision of night activities
- Feeding the animals
- Waking up early to help milk the cow
- Cleaning
- Answering the phone
- Preparing and packing up program jobs
- Help Staff with our Abseiling or Rafting sessions (appropriate qualifications and experience essential for this)

## **WHAT I NEED TO DO BEFORE I ARRIVE**

Volunteers need to have a Working With Children Check and Ambulance cover. We live in a remote location - you need to be prepared to be covered by the ambulance service.

You will also need to fill in the Medical Form, Code of Conduct Form and Agreement Form and return it to us BEFORE the program begins. Please outline any dietary needs on the Medical Form. If you have special dietary needs we can cater for them but we don't cater for fussy eaters.

Send your documents to: [director@mittagundi.org.au](mailto:director@mittagundi.org.au)

## **WHAT TO BRING/ NOT TO BRING**

Drugs and alcohol on our programs are prohibited and we are a non smoking work place. We also have a no nuts policy.

Our staff are volunteers too and they work very long hours and don't get much of an opportunity to go into town to buy treats. If you are feeling generous, you may like to bring a care package for the staff. Some items could be chocolate, coffee, avocados, seasonal fruits, nice cheese, candle or a funky jumper - this list could be endless.

## CLOTHING/GEAR LIST

Bring old clothes for the farm - if you have any outdoor equipment of your own you want to use it - that is great otherwise we have everything you need for the activities.

<b>For the hike and recreation activities</b>		<b>Mainly for Mittagundi Farm</b>	
2 thermal tops (wool or polypropylene). No cotton	2 thermal leggings (not skins – need to be wool or polypropylene)	2 pairs runners / boots	2 Long sleeved shirts
1 Long sleeved collared top (to hike in) such as nylon or flannel shirt. Cotton ok. No denim	Shorts - tight to knee length. Cotton ok. No denim	2-3 woollen or fleece jumpers	2 pairs of tracksuit pants or work pants
Sports tape if you have a knee or ankle injury	Long pants. Quick dry is good. Cotton ok. No denim	2 pairs of shorts	Underwear
Woollen beanie	Broad brimmed sunhat	6 pairs Thick woollen socks eg; explorers	3 T-shirts
3 large strong garbage bags	Torch and spare batteries	Pair of bathers	Towel
Cup, Bowl, Spoon for camping	2 x 1lt water bottle	Toiletries / personal medications	Musical instrument (optional)
30+ Sunscreen	Camera (optional)		
Lip Chap			

We will provide you with hiking boots, water proof jackets, sleeping bags, back packs, mittens, balaclavas, cooking gear, tents and all gear to do with bush walking. If you have any of these items you are welcome to bring them along,

but we may need you to use our gear if yours appears inadequate in any way. Don't bring your own gear for abseiling and rafting.

## **TRAVELLING TO MITTAGUNDI**

You need to arrive at Mittagundi **before lunch** on the Friday a course starts. This will allow you to complete the hike in with the young people. You can leave the following Friday once the young people have begun their hike out.

Alternatively you can arrive **before lunch** on the Sunday so you are there when the young people hike in. You would then leave the following Monday morning after completing the hike out with the young people.

Other options for volunteering are possible. Please get in touch to chat about them.

There are a number of ways that you can travel by car / bus to Mittagundi. Please be aware that these may change during winter due to road closures / snow access.

### **Late November - May**

Falls Creek Route, Mitta Mitta Route and Bairnsdale Route are all available.

### **Winter Access is via Mitta Mitta or Bairnsdale/Omeo only**

*Melbourne - Bairnsdale - Omeo* route does not require snow chains. No snow on the Omeo Hwy.

*Melbourne - Albury/Wodonga - Mitta Mitta* - Snow chains required but not compulsory. The road is graded over Mt Wills.

*Melbourne - Bright - Mt Hotham / Omeo* - Snow chains are compulsory over Mt Hotham (not the preferred route as delays can occur in travel times). This route can also be closed if there are high levels of snow or the weather is bad.

## **Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre**

**4385 Omeo Hwy  
Glen Valley VIC 3898  
03 5159 7238**

	Spring	Autumn
<b>Day 1</b>	Young people meet at Albury station <b>between 11am and 12pm</b> , pack and prepare for next day hike, spend the night at Tawonga Hut (gear not needed for hike in transported to Mittagundi via vehicle)	Meet at Albury station <b>between 11am and 12pm</b> , pack and prepare for next day hike, spend night at Big River Saddle Camp (near Mt Wills) (gear not needed for hike in transported to Mittagundi via vehicle)
<b>Day 2</b>	Begin walk to Mittagundi from Watchbed Creek near Falls Creek. Camp overnight in tents	Begin walk to Mittagundi towards Big River, overnight camp in tents.
<b>Day 3</b>	Continue walk & arrive at Mittagundi mid afternoon	Continue walk, arrive at Mittagundi mid afternoon
<b>Day 4</b>	Half the group abseils, other half has a farm day	Half the group abseils, other half has a farm day
<b>Day 5</b>	Vice versa for day 4	Vice versa for day 4
<b>Day 6</b>	Half the group rafts or sleds on the Mitta Mitta River, other half has a Farm Day	Half the group rafts or sleds on the Mitta Mitta River, other half has a Farm Day
<b>Day 7</b>	Vice versa for day 6	Vice versa for day 6
<b>Day 8</b>	Commence walk out, over High Plains	Commence walk out, towards Big River Camp
<b>Day 9</b>	Continue walk out over High Plains	Continue walk out to Big River Saddle Camp
<b>Day 10</b>	Complete walk out, arrive tired and elated at Albury station <b>12pm</b>	Drive out, arrive at Albury station <b>12pm</b> tired and elated

## HOW CAN I HELP AFTER MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE?

**Mates of Mittagundi** (MOM) is a network of people from the extended Mittagundi family, who come together to support fundraising events and promotion of the organisation. Membership to MOM is not exclusive. We are seeking members that have an understanding of what Mittagundi is and want to support it – to be the advocates and champion helpers of the organisation.

Go to <http://www.mittagundi.org.au/mates-of-mittagundi/> to find out more and how to join.

Thanks for reading this information. If you have any question please contact the Director on email [director@mittagundi.org.au](mailto:director@mittagundi.org.au) or phone 03 5159 7223