

**2017 June 25**

Dear Ocate Cliffs family,

In two weeks we will be hosting an international work camp at Ocate Cliffs with participants from Korea, Kosovo, Russia, and USA. We will all be getting to know these other cultures in a little mountain community while working on things like tiling, plaster, and trail building. Exciting new territory for us!



In other news, I would like to introduce our second on-site volunteer staffer - Christina. A recent high school graduate, she's an avid gamer and computer techie, skier and mountain biker, and enjoys an adventure and meeting new people. (pictured here!)

If you know anyone who wants to come for a live-work experience, please send them our job announcement: [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org)

Star Ford, Program Manager

#### MORE ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMP

Ocate Cliffs is holding its first international workcamp this year in collaboration with Volunteers For Peace ([vfp.org](http://vfp.org)), a volunteer placement organization devoted to transnational understanding. Participants from four countries will cook and live together for two weeks while working along side our local volunteers. The group will help finish the Ocate Cliffs staff house as well as doing trail building and other outdoor work.

For the international volunteers it is not only a cost-effective way to travel to the US, it brings people into contact in ways that tourist travel cannot, and immerses them in a culture in a way that is much more

than just seeing sights.

The US is a land of many subcultures, and Ocate Cliffs is a nascent point in the country's growing disability culture. Focusing on the concept of an autistic workspace, the project aims to be accessible to autistic people who often find it impossible to fully engage in typical workplaces. The appeal of the model stems from the fact that it has autistic leadership and thus does not have a two-tiered us/them mindset, and does not have the agenda to force conformity or to "cure", but just to remove barriers to engagement.

People who travel long distances to do physical work have a burning need for meaningful contribution

to the world. The same is true of many disabled people everywhere who are excluded from the economy. The two week experience will bring both groups together for introspection, friendships, and global connections.

## INDEX FOR NEW PEOPLE

If you are new to Ocate Cliffs, here's a quick table of contents that I send out to people who want to learn more.

1. Reading and videos to get familiar with it:

\* Founding paper: [www.tinyurl.com/ocate](http://www.tinyurl.com/ocate)

\* Web site: [www.ocatecliffs.org](http://www.ocatecliffs.org)

\* Facebook: Search for "Ocate Cliffs" and check out videos or leave comments. Also, please 'like' it!

2. If you are interested in the construction progress:

\* State of development: we have completed zoning approval, well drilling, water system, toilet house and staff house (interior finishing in 2017).

3. If you want to receive email and/or participate in discussion:

\* We have an outgoing mailing list with updates no more often than monthly. Contact Star to get on (or off) the list, or use the web site.

\* Discussion group - This is a google list that allows any level of participation and is intended for people to brainstorm with the most amount of email. You can join it at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ocate-cliffs-talk>

\* Twitter: @OcateCliffs

4. If you are ready to do something to move this along:

\* Major projects you can do: see <http://tribe.divergentlabs.org/Tribe/Needs>

\* Donations: see <http://www.divergentlabs.org/ocatecliffs/donate>

\* Donate by buying from Amazon here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4270511>

**2017 July 26**

Dear Ocate Cliffs family,

Our international work camp was fun and productive! Thanks to everyone who participated and traveled across the world to get here. Some of the projects we worked on are a retaining wall, the barn, and the slate tile for the shower.



If this sounds fun, you can come too!

Star Ford, Program Manager