



SWY Forest

Mazarete
(Spain)

October 7, 2023
SWYAA Spain



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1. Organization

A SWY Forest organizing committee was created to develop the project. The members are the following ex PYs who belong to SWYAA Spain:

- Mercedes Carreño, SWY 4, Spain
- Daniel Silva, SWY 9, Canada
- Ayako Hashimoto, SWY 10, Japan
- Paloma Sotillo, SWY 15, Spain
- Alberto Medina, SWY 24, Spain
- Paloma Fernández, SWY 24, Spain

The committee held meetings on a regular basis and afterwards sent an update to SWYAA Spain as well as to SWYAA International.

The project was developed together with the **Foundation “Adopt a tree”** that provided us with the tools and the knowledge required as well as with the warranty of a safe future for the trees.

The date (October 7, 2023) was chosen based on the following criteria:

- Correct season for planting
- Good weather
- Not coincident with Spanish holidays
- Compatible with attendance to GA in Oman

15/05/2023	Logo contest for SWYAA Spain members
13/06/2023	Final decision of the SWY Forest logo
3/09/2023	Online meeting with SWYAA International
10/09/2023	Online meeting for swyers
16/9/2023	Visit to the venue
7/10/2023	SWY Forest planting day

1.1. Institutional image and communication

The materials were designed focusing on the SWY Forest logo in order to create harmony. The logos of SWYAA International and SWYAA Spain were also included.



Merchandising and ID badges

Once the date (October 7, 2023) was chosen, a form was created (in Spanish and English) to allow participants to register. Registration was open until September 22 when we reached out the figure of **106 participants** (44 people registered and 62 accompanying people).



Save the date (Spanish and English version)

We sent a small dossier and the program to the participants via e-mail and we kept them updated with any changes.

We also posted information on our profiles of Facebook and Instagram.

1.2. Funding

The amount of **5000\$** provided by SWYAA International was fully allocated for the purchase of trees.

SWYAA Spain, after an internal consultation with the members, agreed to donate up to **530€**. These funds were used for the merchandising of the event, some snacks for the participants as well as the commemorative plaque.



Fruit and snacks for the participants

1.2.1. Donations

The Foundation Mahou-San Miguel donated **192 bottles of water** and the Company Frutality donated **100 bananas** for the event.

1.3. Japanese Embassy

We contacted the Japanese Embassy in Spain to properly inform about the project and a formal letter was sent to the Ambassador.

2. The event

2.1. Participants

The final number of participants was **70**, including 8 swyers. Given that most of the people were not ex PYs, it was a good opportunity to explain what the program Ship for World Youth is about and promote it.



2.2. Planting trees

The main activity of the day was planting the trees. The species planted were **pines, oaks and ash trees**. The staff from the Foundation "Adopt a tree" taught us how to plant the trees and provided us with the required tools.



Around **350 trees** were planted that day and the rest of the **900 trees** that will make up the SWY forest will be planted by students or other groups interested in recovering the natural area.



Learning how to plant a tree

2.3. Other activities

Upon the arrival of participants, a **welcome speech** was delivered in order to present the SWY Forest project and the goals of the day as well as to introduce the program Ship for World Youth and the Foundation “Adopt a tree”.



Welcome speech and introduction

Afterwards, we had a **commented hike** (4 km) until the plantation area. We spent around 2 hours planting trees and the commemorative plaque was delivered. This plaque will remain in the educational centre so other visitors can see where the SWY Forest is located (GPS coordinates are included).



Commented hike



Delivery of the commemorative plaque



Commemorative plaque (Spanish, English and Japanese)

Back in the educational centre we had lunch together. In the afternoon several activities were offered to the participants:

- **Tree of wishes:** we replicated and adapted the Tanabata tradition in Japan. After an explanation of the original tradition, the participants could write their wishes and hung them on a cherry tree.
- **Names in Japanese:** Ayako Hashimoto from the Organizing Committee along with the Japanese participants (Yuki Satake – SWY 29 –, Akiko Nakama – SWY 29 – and her husband) wrote the names of the participants in Japanese.
- **Origami:** some participants learnt how to make a Japanese crane (*tsuru*).
- **Adventure park:** some participants enjoyed an adventure circuit ended by a zip line.
- **Tree workshop:** some participants learnt how to prepare the seeds in the garden centre to be planted and grow as future trees.



Picnic lunch



Explanation of the activity "Tree of wishes"



JPY participants writing names in Japanese

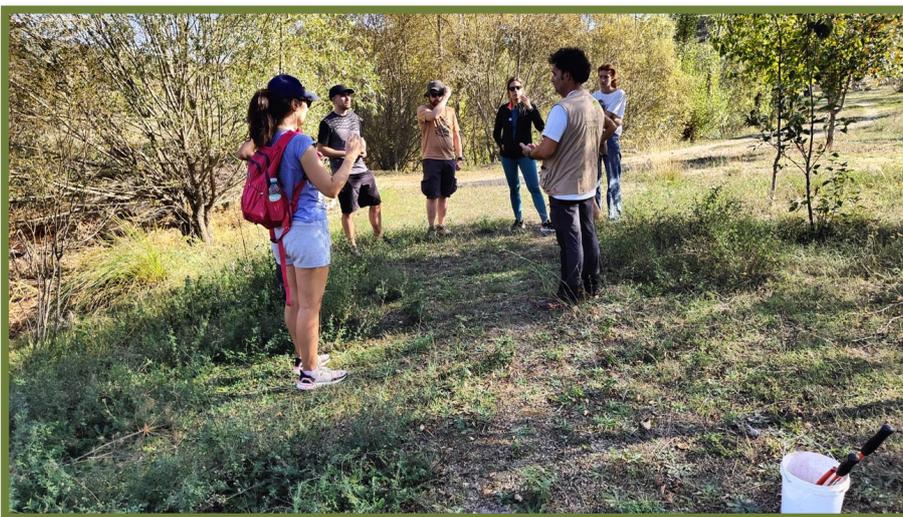




Origami workshop



Adventure park



Tree workshop



3. The aftermath

3.1. Press clipping



Our event appeared on local and national newspapers and local TV news. Alberto Medina was interviewed by COPE radio station and the Japanese Ambassador in Spain shared the event on his personal X account.

3.1.1. Newspapers

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/local/castilla-la-mancha/20231006/9279916/ex-becarios-intercambio-japones-reforestaran-cientos-encinas-pino-zona-fuego-guadalajara-2005.html>

<https://www.dclm.es/noticias/148092/ex-becarios-de-intercambio-japones-reforestaran-la-zona-del-fuego-de-guadalajara-de-2005>

<https://torrijostoday.com/castilla-la-mancha/ex-becarios-de-intercambio-japones-reforestaran-con-cientos-de-encinas-y-pino-la-zona-del-fuego-de-guadalajara-de-2005/>

https://www.lacerca.com/noticias/castilla_la_mancha/ex-becarios-intercambio-encinas-zona-fuego-guadalajara-2005-683394-1.html

3.1.2. Radio station

https://www.cope.es/emisoras/castilla-la-mancha/guadalajara-provincia/guadalajara/audios/mediodia-cope-guadalajara-las-1320-octubre-20231006_2362167

3.1.3. X (former Twitter)

<https://x.com/embajadorjpnesp/status/1710318668192645167?s=46&t=2y5kxDRdhiEeOpXUK3zcTg>

3.1.4. Television

<https://www.cmmedia.es/play/tv/castilla-la-mancha-fin-de-semana/castilla-mancha-semana-07-10-2023.html>

Minute 8:15

3.2. Future of SWY Forest

The exact location of the SWY Forest is the following:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/czFBYj2BbSeLpGBw7>

The SWY Forest is located in a Natural Park and the Foundation "Adopt a tree" will take care of the planted trees so they grow and become a real forest. Thanks to this action we have helped to fasten the natural process of environmental recovery.

The Foundation issued an official certificate of the "adoption" of 900 trees.



Adoption certificate



Participating swyers