Volunteering project in Jönköping, Sweden

Location: Jönköping, Sweden

Project dates: from 1st of September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Duration: 12 months

Applicants: EU and non-EU residents aged 18-30 years old

Application deadline: 23th of April 2023, 23:59 CET

Hosting organisation: Jönköping Municipality, Culture and Leisure Department

Project description:

The project activity focuses on bringing the international dimension to the local youth work of Jönköping municipality. The youth centres and the local civil society are all working to increase integration and inclusion. The youth centres are working mostly with youth 10-19 years of age. They offer both after-school activities for younger youth and evening activities for older youth in Jönköping. Their work needs continuous efforts to broaden and improve understanding and tolerance among youth but also consciousness about similarities and differences in Europe. Our project objective is to increase solidarity between different cultures through meaningful local activities in youth centers that promote inclusion of young people in our municipality.

We plan to host 6 volunteers with a start 1 September 2023. The 6 volunteers will be working side by side at the youth centres and will be sharing their experience from their participation in European Solidarity Corps. Two volunteers will do their volunteering at Birka youth center,

two will be active in Forum youth center, and two will be at Brunnen meeting point. Here is a short description of these locations:

Birka youth centre is located in the center of Österängen, a neighbourhood in the eastern part of Jönköping. The youth center has three activity rooms, as well as an office and a kitchen. The target group of the youth center are children aged 10-12, and youth aged 13-19. As Österängen is an area characterized by a low socio-economic status, the youth center aims to reach youth who are at a disadvantage to their peers because of migrant background, and economic and social barriers. Some of the most common activities include: playing table tennis, PlayStation, billiard, watching movies, chill and hangout. They also cooperate with Birka Folketshus. Birka is also active during summer period, when the youth center also offers activities outside the youth center in cooperation with local partner organizations. For more information you can check their Instagram profile: @fritidsgarden.birka

With this volunteering project, Birka youth center aims to raise the awareness about the international youth mobilities, as well as contribute to the development of girls empowerment initiatives. They are looking for 2 volunteers who are outgoing and daring, have an inclusive mindset, know how to respect the differences, and can produce the digital content.

Forum youth centre is placed in Öxnehaga, between Jönköping and Huskvarna. The youth center area is spacious (including the sport hall) and it is connected with the school and library. The activities are open for children aged 10-12, and for youth aged 13-19. Just like Österängen, Öxnehaga is an area characterized by a low socio-economic status and the youth center puts additional effort on organizing activities that promote integration and inclusion. At this moment, there are 3 full time employees

at Forum, and they aim to create a safe space where local youth can join for activities. Some of the activities include: cooking, creative activities, board games, help with homework, and assisting with CV creating. They also organize sport events and music evenings, and are creating additional summer activities. For more information you can check their Instagram profile: @fritidsgardenforum

Forum youth center wants to include more activities based on non-formal education in daily youth work, as well as work more on active youth participation. They are looking for 2 volunteers who are engaging and enthusiastic, responsible, aware of cultural differences, can give clear instructions, and can reflect on things.

Brunnen meeting point is located in the city center of Jönköping. It consists of two floors – on the ground floor there are 3 activity rooms, and in the basement there is a dance studio and the kitchen. Brunnen is open for youth aged 16-25 during the week, with the exception of Thursday when they are running the activity with LGBTQIA+ youth (age 13-25). Some of the most common activities in Brunnen include: board games playing, using the dance hall, creative activities (painting, sewing), guest in sofa events, etc. Brunnen also aims to reach to the international students who are studying at the Jönköping University, and they are cooperating with local partners on different courses. For more information you can check their Instagram profile: @brunnenjonkoping

Brunnen meeting point is willing to improve the youth participation in their activities, as well as bringing more engaging and content-based activities for their visitors. They are looking for 2 volunteers who are creative and can inspire others to be proactive, can respect the differences, are curious and innovative.

Profile of the applicant:

- Interested in working as a volunteer with children and young people, as well as target groups of Birka, Forum and/or Brunnen.
- Willing to take initiative to plan, organize, implement, and evaluate activities within youth centers.
- Ready to work on your own, as well as in international teams.
- Open-minded and respectful towards differences in backgrounds and abilities.
- Willing to engage in learning opportunities offered during the volunteering period.
- Experienced in arranging and organizing learning activities for children and youth (local and/or international environment).
- Advantage: interested/experienced in the topics of inclusion, youth mental health, international youth projects, social media, online activities.

Task for the volunteers:

- Contributing to the daily youth work activities of youth centers by sharing new ideas and applying prior experience.
- Developing leisure time and meaningful activities together with youth leaders, civil society, and the youth.
- Assisting other youth centers in their activities during special occasions - e.g. during Easter break, Halloween night, LGBTQIA+ activities, summer camps, ESC promotion events.
- Promoting the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ program to young people of Jönköping.
- Communication tasks: creating posters/flyers, updating information about activities on the Instagram or Facebook

accounts of the youth centres, and of Instagram account @escjonkoping

Learning opportunities for the volunteers:

During the project duration, the volunteers will get an insight into a common daily youth work within a youth centre in Jönköping. The volunteers will improve leadership and communication skills, and will also learn how to cooperate in groups with both colleagues and youth. Further on, the volunteers will get to learn basics of Swedish language, and will improve their cultural awareness and expression competence.

Funding

If you are accepted as a volunteer, some of your costs will be covered by the project. This includes travel expenses, insurance, accommodation, and food and pocket money throughout your stay.

Application:

To apply as a volunteer for the project, please send your CV with a photo and a motivation letter in English to: welcome@jonkoping.se
When writing the motivation letter, please mention which youth center (Birka, Forum or Brunnen) fits your interest and background more, and how you can contribute to its activities. If more than one of youth centers looks interesting, you can mention several.
Also, as part of your motivation letter mention your PRN (Participant Reference Number) – you create a profile on European Youth Portal: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

We will conduct virtual interviews with the selected candidates during the selecting process. You may be invited for the interview before the application deadline finishes.