

Workcamps in Lettland



Partner: "Youth for Smile"

Introduction to YOUTH FOR SMILE

NGO «Youth for Smile» is non-profit non-political youth organization established in 2005. Our main aims are unite children's and youth to promote their participation in non-formal education, in order to develop far and wide skills and abilities active take part within social processes in local, national and international level. All our activities are close with our values: fairness and equality; mutual understanding and tolerance; active and healthy way of living; development of personality; understanding and creative atmosphere; be friend of environment.

YOUTH FOR SMILE are member organization of NGO «Bauska district rural partnership» and NGO «Civic Alliance – Latvia». Our organization is regional coordinator of European youth information network EURODESK and programme YOUTH IN ACTION. Since 2010 we are guest organization in Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations.

Source of income.

Our incomes consists mainly of received grants for the projects from foundations like Youth in Action programs, EU funds etc. Part of our incomes comes from contributions and subscription fees from participants in our programs. We do not receive any support from the state.

General information

YOUTH FOR SMILE work camps in 2010 are first step to introduce international work camps in Latvia. With our work camps we want to introduce voluntary work as a part of development of active citizenship in local community. All camp leaders will be prepared in special training programme where will be included intercultural learning, team building, conflict menegement etc.

Work

Our workcamps last about 2 weeks and take place from July to September. The number of international volunteers in the camp varies from 8 to 12. We try to avoid having more than 2-3 people of the same nationality in the camp. All camps have English as communication language. As a rule volunteers have to work 5-7 hours a day 5 days a week for the benefit of local community. Hosts provide food and accommodation as well as social and cultural activities in return.

Conditions for participation

Volunteers should be over 18 years old. For the work with kids the minimum age of volunteers is usually 20. There is no maximum age limit. Usually there are no special skills required from volunteers, except camps dealing with kids. Participants should be motivated to do voluntary work, be ready to meet realities of local life and have enough flexibility to accept it, be tolerant and open for the new experiences. In some camps (usually work with kids) a motivation letter is required from the volunteer.

Camp leaders

As a rule in the camp there is two leaders, whose task is to be a coordinator and a link between the participants and the host. Leaders participates in daily life equally with volunteers.

Insurance

In our camps insurance is not provided, therefore volunteers have to bring their own insurance against illness, accident and third party risk. Participants from EU countries should bring EU health insurance form.

Some practical matters

For the majority of camps volunteers have to bring sleeping bag, work clothes and gloves, summer clothes and swimming suit, but also warm clothes and rain-gear as weather in Latvia is very changeable and really unpredictable. Our volunteers can be accommodated in clubs, schools or tents. It is vital to have a mosquito cream. Volunteers are also asked to bring information about their country, photos, music, games, musical instruments, etc.

CAMPS 2010

YFS 04	SAULESSTARS 2009	BĀRBELE	19/08 - 01/09	KIDS / TEACH	10	(18+)
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WORK

NGO "Youth for Smile" take initiative to organize creative camp for youth with less opportunities from locals neighborhoods. Volunteers will help in organizing activities for youth in age from 13 till 16 years old. Using dance, music, art and theater methods we will look to give motivation for youth to develop themselves and local community.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Living conditions are very basic. The volunteers are accommodated in the local school or in the tents depending on weather conditions. Toilets and washing facilities are provided. Cooking is done by volunteers themselves.

LOCATION

Workcamp will be organized in Barbele. It is located in south of Latvia close to border with Lithuania (just 9 km). Barbele are 70 km from Riga.

TERMINAL

Riga international airport or Riga international bus station.

LEISURE TIME

During the weekends and leisure time volunteers will have opportunities to enjoy walking around the local neighborhood. Capital city of Latvia – Riga are located close to project place and it will be possibility to have a tour in it. Volunteers can visit as well one of the most beautiful palace in Baltic states – Rundale palace.

EXTRA FEE

Since we do not receive funds to support your participation in the camp neither from the state nor from private sponsor, you are asked to contribute 50 Euro. The fee has to be paid by volunteers to host upon arrival to the camp.