

Motivation and EVS experience

Ulriken KFUK-KFUM is a local part of the Norwegian YMCA-YWCA and also a part of the world wide YMCA-YWCA organization. It is natural for us as a part of an international organization to participate in exchange programmes especially for youths. We wish to use the EVS experience to receive inspiration from the volunteers, and to give inspiration in doing voluntarily work. Our organization has been involved in EVS the previous years. We have had two volunteers from Germany every year since our first volunteers in 2008 – 2009. The first starting date was 1st of September 2008. We have had volunteers each year from the we started until this year, 2016-2017. The volunteers bring a lot of experience and inspiration into the work they do and they are a huge resource for the activities they are involved in, in addition they contribute to positive attitudes and inspiration in the local community. To be part of the EVS also means that they can benefit from the courses that are arranged by the EVS and meet other volunteers in other parts of the country. Not being part of this has been a huge draw back the years we have not gotten support for our programs.

Duration

From 1st September to 30th of June

Number of volunteers

2

Project environments

The work in the project will take place in the Bergen municipality, and in the central areas of this municipality. We have apartments for the volunteers in a nice place with good access to public transport. The volunteers will be followed by two contacts primarily from our organization, this is at the moment, Oddbjørn Stubhaug and Jan Frode Sandvik. Otherwise they will have to work independently, but in cooperation with the different environments and people in our sub-groups.

Proposed activities volunteers

We will offer them language courses and the courses arranged by the EVS. In addition they will learn Norwegian culture and language through their work during the year.

The role of the volunteers in our organisation will not be large as their work will mainly be in our sub-groups, but we encourage them to join our meetings and take part in the organisational work we do.

The activities the volunteers will be involved in are many:

- We have ten different children- and youth units which all are involved in singing, music, sports, open kindergarten, youth clubs and ten-sing groups.
- Ten Sing: a programme for teenagers and youths, which consists of singing, dancing, music and drama. The use of technical equipment for light-effects and the sound often make an interest for special young boys who don't want to take part in singing and dancing.
- Youth-clubs: many activities for youths. Playing games, discussing, music, art etc. Open for all kinds of youths to give them a leisure time activity offer and a way into other YMCA-YWCA work.
- Sport-club: main goal is to activate youths and children, having fun and create a good social environment.

- Choir: Activity for children and youths who like to sing together.
- Open kindergarten: an educational offer led by a preschool teacher. For kids 0 – 6 years of age, accompanied by parents or other adults. The program includes games, activities, interacting with other kids. We are offering information, advice and guidance when it comes to kid's development and years of growth.

Volunteer profiles and recruitment process

The volunteers we would like to receive in our organisation has to be independent in their work and above 18 years of age. When all the activity they will be part of in our projects are YMCA-YWCA related and part of the Christian work in our community, it will be very preferably if the volunteers are part of the YMCA-YWCA or has experience from such work. It is also necessary that the volunteers has a Christian belief because of the work they will be part of.

The recruitment process will be through applications to the sending organisation which then transfers these applications to us. In our organisation three persons will go through every application with a scoring system that we have developed before some of the candidates will be interviewed and reference persons will be contacted. After this two of the applications will be selected. Gender equality will be preferred, so that one girl and one boy will be preferred before two girls for instance.

Ulriken KFUK-KFUM is a local organisation in the region of Bjørgvin KFUK-KFUM, which in their part is a part of the Norwegian KFUK-KFUM which is part of the international YMCA-YWCA organisation. This means that we in this organisation has a large web of contacts and similar organisation in different countries. This is one of the reasons we find it preferably to cooperate with other YMCA-YWCA organisations as sending organisations. Also, the activities which the volunteers are involved in are YMCA-YWCA related and therefore, knowledge of this organisation and the work done in this organisation is preferably. We have so far cooperated with the German YMCA-YWCA as a sending organisation, and has very good experiences with this which we wants to continue cooperate with.

Risk prevention, protection and safety

A full guarantee is always difficult to give, and the volunteers have to take their own precautions in this respect.

Our projects will be performed in the Bergen municipality in Norway which is the second largest city in Norway and is considered a safe city. The volunteers will be met at the airport and in the first weeks be followed closely to help them adjust to the new environment. They will live in apartment house of good standard, that the organisation disposes, and where 6 students or young adults lives.

The work in the different units will get them in contact with nice environments of people and safe environments.

Each of the volunteer will have a mentor who meets the volunteer regularly. In case of crises or changes in the environment that will increase the risk the volunteers can contact their mentor and other persons in our organisation which always can be reached and eventual changes can be effectuated. Also the German YMCA-YWCA sending organisation has a contact person for the volunteers. We also try to achieve to have a contact person in Bergen which speaks the native language of the volunteers. Earlier this has been a previous volunteer who now is living here, but this is not always achieved.