

Breaking bubbles of locality Volunteering – Marttinen Youth Centre

Description:

Marttinen Youth Centre works on local, regional, national and international level. On local level Marttinen coordinates the youth work activities of Virrat municipality, and i.e., oversees organizing the local youth house, youth clubs and youth council activities. On regional level we run a coordination project that aims to develop the quality of youth work in the region by offering trainings, peer support and creating possibilities for dialogue between youth workers, decision makers and young people. Marttinen also work with other NGO's, schools and more trying to support their agendas and link them stronger to the youth policy through offering training, opportunities and networking as a "hub" for youth work and international youth work. Through our status as a National Youth Centre, and as a part of being a network of 9 centres in Finland in total, we also try to play a role in the society level discussions about children, young people, youth work and education. Through these activities we implement the Finnish state youth Act and policy, in example through various projects (also some mentioned below) funded directly i.e., through the Ministry of education and culture. Through our international coordination we've also networked and implemented a lot of international projects over the past years, with main focus now on European cooperation and projects in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programs.

The volunteer project will focus on bringing 2 volunteers as an active part in the youth work / pedagogical team of Marttinen Youth Centre. The main responsibility and aim is to bring an "international flare" to the everyday activities in the house with the groups, but also further the "internationalization" of the Marttinen staff and community. This means that the volunteers will support mainly the educational activities happening year around in Marttinen, but also contribute to the other necessary activities in relation planning, organizing and evaluating the daily work and life of the youth centre.

In particular, the volunteers will have the opportunity to learn and take part in activities relating to:

CAMP SCHOOLS - The high season for camp schools is in September and May, occasionally they will also take place during wintertime. Volunteers work with our program managers and other guides with different kinds of sports and activities, having a chance to instruct international workshops and other activities for the children (mainly 12-year-olds) and give them an understanding of other cultures, at the same time learning from the Finnish one.

SOCIAL YOUTH WORK - "Nuotta"-coaching" camps happen around the year, bringing groups of young people (13-29) from variety of backgrounds for intensive "coaching" and activities in Marttinen. Some come only for two days, some come for the whole week. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with our Nuotta-coordinator, planning and implementing activities with these groups. Also, perhaps one or two of the groups is interested about your home countries, or maybe even planning a trip or an exchange with some other countries, where we think you might have a lot to offer to the conversation!

MAINTANANCE AND KITCHEN - Running a Youth Centre is much more than simply working with young people from visiting groups. Food needs to be served every day, buildings repaired, rooms cleaned, snow shawled from the paths, post delivered, and customers and young people helped every day of the year! You will also get the opportunity to meet, get to know, and work with the maintenance crew, and kitchen staff, and if you are willing, also bring "spices and ideas" from your own culture to the equation.

PROJECTS IN MARTTINEN - huge part of Marttinen's activities are based on different smaller project always running. There are international events, youth exchanges, local initiatives, school visits, voluntary actions, and much, much more that you will be invited to contribute to! Also, if you feel like it, you can set up your own projects as you work here, based on the volunteers own

interest. Cooperation with local schools, events, projects and more is a day-to-day reality, also for the volunteers.

Support:

Marttinen Youth Centre will provide for accommodation, food, leisure time activities and language teaching. Each volunteer will have their own room with common kitchen and bathroom. It's recommended to attend to free time possibilities in Virrat to get to know the locals. Volunteers have also access to all the equipment and activities in Marttinen. Buses and trains go to the nearest cities daily, to reach Virrat, the volunteers will have bicycles or when/if needed a taxi-bus service. During the whole project the volunteers will be guided by a mentor and in regular meetings they can share their feelings and experiences, also supporting their integration to the new surroundings. Marttinen has years of experience in hosting volunteers, and through this experience we've developed warm and open work-atmosphere which should make it easy for the volunteers to "feel at home".

During the first weeks / months of the project the volunteer will have the time to adjust to the working surroundings at his/her own pace, and will also receive additional support (mentor hosting / coordinator and instruction to matters concerning, independent living, transport, work tasks, surroundings, expectations and customs etc. Regular meetings with the volunteer will be created to support the volunteers wellbeing, learning process and daily tasks. Beside this, the support system/network will be on-going and present throughout the project duration. This support network consists of:

Mentor:

The volunteer will be assigned with an individual mentor (one staff member of the involved organisation) to take interest in the volunteers daily life and well-being. The mentor will have regular meetings with the volunteer on weekly basis, to also support the learning of the volunteer and to revise the activities based on the needs and wishes of the volunteer as the project develops.

Coordinator:

Marttinen youth center international coordinators will act as a "support person and coordinator" supporting especially the administration, launch, mid-evaluation and finishing the project. The coordinator will be available also to support any conflict situations and dilemmas to be handled within the project. The role of the coordinating mentor will also be to support the hosting organisation, as the project develops.

Job guidance and supervision - At the workplaces (Listed before in activities):

Each working surrounding (offering activities that volunteer takes part in) will have at least 1 "responsible person for the volunteer" to support and instruct the daily tasks. These persons will also have regular meetings and contact with the hosting organisation coordinator to discuss and feedback about the project development and volunteer's performance.