



Project description JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt

About VJF

The VJF (Association of young volunteers) was founded in March 1990 and is an officially recognised non-profit association with the aim to expand the idea of international voluntary movements. The association organises international youth meetings with short term projects (workcamps, MTV, youth exchanges), long term projects (European Solidarity Corps, weltwärts – volunteering in a developing country) and takes part in the Ecological Voluntary Year for German volunteers in environmental institutions. Furthermore, the VJF owns a project and meeting place in the outskirts of Berlin that can be hired for different seminars, international meetings and private events.

About JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt

The youth club JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt is located in Berlin-Pankow and is funded by the district office of Pankow. The opening hours are from Monday to Thursday from 14 – 22 o'clock and on Sunday from 12 – 20 o'clock (events are held on Friday and Saturday). Four full time workers as well as volunteers and trainees are employed, and the youth club offers about 800m² of space for pedagogical programs and projects. About 60 people visit the JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt every day and their target group are young people between 13 – 25. The main focus is on cultural activities and events and the principles of work at JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt are independence, participation and involvement of young people. There is room for dance, music and theatre rehearsals, plus the opportunity to appear on stage. The creative field of activity and learning includes workshops on graffiti, airbrush and serigraphy. Besides, the JugendKulturZentrum offers computers, games and music instruments.

Motivation and experience in ESC

The coordinating organisation VJF has been accredited as sending and hosting organisation for the European Solidarity Corps (formerly known as European Voluntary Service) since 1996. Since then around 100 young volunteers have been sent to projects abroad. VJF also annually hosts between 6-10 ESC volunteers in different projects: youth clubs in Berlin, children recreation centres in Brandenburg and in the organisation itself.

The youth club Königstadt is a leisure time centre for children and youths focussing on methods of self – organisation and creating space for participation. Königstadt so far hosted several ESC volunteers, and the director and mentor already has been involved in the ESC program for many years. Before hosting ESC volunteers, Königstadt already had experiences with international and national volunteers of other programs (voluntary ecological year, international workcamps, seminars and youth exchanges, etc.). International volunteers provide the

opportunity to work continuously on international and European topics and are an enrichment for all employees and visitors. Furthermore, tolerance, joy of living and working hand in hand on the realization of projects are important aspects of the German culture that JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt wants to promote as well.

Summary of the EVS hosting project:

Duration: The service will start in the beginning of September 2019 and last 12 months until August 2020.

Working hours: Königstadt is open from Monday to Thursday from 14 – 22 o'clock and on Sunday from 12 – 20 o'clock (events are held on Friday and Saturday). The working hours of the volunteer mostly will be situated in this time and won't exceed a maximum of 30 hours a week. In the peak season it will be necessary to work off-time, but a compensation will be offered. Two days a week are free.

During school vacation the working hours will be shifted to Monday to Friday from noon to 8 pm. Trips might be located outside of Berlin, so the working hours will be extended. The volunteer will get an appropriate number of days off after those trips.

Two days each month will be allowed as vacation.

Number of volunteers: 1 volunteer. There will be other EVS volunteers on other programs of VJF to get in contact with.

Location: Berlin Pankow

Accommodation & Food: The volunteer will live in a flat together with other ESC volunteers above another youth club in Pankow. He/She will have her/his own room. Money for food will be provided on a monthly basis.

Pocket money: will be provided on a monthly basis. It is around 150 Euro per month.

Local transport: The volunteer will be given a monthly pass for the public transportation in Berlin.

Mentors: The volunteer will have 1 mentor at the youth club JugendKulturZentrum Königstadt (Ritschy) and one in the VJF office (Thordes).

About the programme (rough schedule, small changes might appear):

During the ESC, the volunteer will learn about all different facets of children and youth work in a theoretical and practical approach. They will have several opportunities to get in contact with other volunteers. During their daily work, they will participate in team consultations and internal and external meetings and professional trainings. The volunteer will work in a team and be responsible for certain tasks. It is possible to choose a project on which s/he can focus referring to his/her interests and talents. These projects could be: environmental projects (e.g.

use of solar energy), music-pedagogical projects, creative offers for children and adolescents or networking between youth institutions for the organisation of a major music event.

The main task is to provide a great variety of leisure time offers such as cultural activities, arts and creative workshops, political educational work and sports. An important topic is the musical education. In Königstadt, there are regular live concerts of school bands that the volunteer can organise and supervise. Besides, there are school discos and theatre projects. The open youth work area will be the working area for the volunteer, so s/he can get first contacts with visitors. During the ESC, the volunteer will also take part in the different workshops at Königstadt, so that in the following s/he can coordinate and (if s/he is interested) organise an own workshop. In addition to that, there are also special projects like international workcamps and youth exchanges. These are just highlights and no regular offers, but of course, the volunteer can participate or organise an own project/exchange.

Volunteer profile:

As a volunteer at Königstadt it is an advantage to have a good knowledge of German, good skills in written and spoken English, as well as some computer skills including Microsoft Office. Working at Königstadt requires a teamwork spirit as well as the ability to work independently. It might be easier if you already have experiences in (intercultural) workcamps.

Königstadt welcomes motivated, flexible, friendly, curious and self-confident volunteers with good communication skills and a sense of humour. Gender, nationality, religion and political and sexual orientation are not considered in the selection process, the volunteers are chosen regarding their abilities, experiences, interests and motivation.