

PeaceWorks ESC volunteership at Mullsjö folkhögskola, Sweden

organisation topics

- *International cooperation, international relations, development cooperation*
- *Creativity and culture*
- *New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses*

description of organisation

Mullsjö folk high school is a folk high school situated in the small community of Mullsjö, close to the bigger town Jönköping in the south of Sweden. A folk high school is a school from the typically Scandinavian philosophy of using non-formal education methodology, which hosts adult students studying regular high school subjects, as well as thematic courses, such as art, music or sports. There are about 150 students at the Mullsjö Folk High School (all above the age of 18 years), and 40 employees.

Mullsjö Folk High School offers a wide range of Art Education such as ceramics, textile, photography and art (painting) classes. Most students in these courses have a gap year before/after university or from work. Some of the adult students who enrol in high school subjects are able to gain a second chance to graduate from high school, previously hindered due to various circumstances. In addition to regular subjects these students also study profiles such as Health, Computer Knowledge and Sustainability.



There are exhibitions, school events, study trips and exchanges, which are organised by the students and the teachers. The volunteers are welcome to also take part and initiative. Sometimes the students sell their self made art- and handcrafts.

The school has a library and an indoor sports hall and the volunteers are free to use these facilities. The students play sports etc. in their leisure time and the volunteers are welcome to join the different student activities.

tasks of the volunteer

The volunteers' activities will depend on their background, interests and wishes, as well as the current conditions and possibilities of the project. The volunteer will work with a few main areas:

- In the mornings the volunteers **run the cafeteria**, which includes offering snacks and drinks (preparing, cleaning, planning).

- if they are interested: **organise informal language classes** for other students also interested in the language, as well as workshops about other areas of experience.
- **be involved in school events** such as the Swedish Lucia, Nobel Fest or a School Prom, which are mostly organised by the students.
- **participate in Swedish classes** and other subjects of specific interest of the volunteer, such as ceramics or photography classes every week.
- every Wednesday evening there is a **weekly activity planned by a teacher or the volunteer(s)**. It can be everything from Sports, watching movies or having a BBQ at a campfire to initiating a Quiz or baking something.
- **opportunity to create courses or run own projects**. After some time the volunteer may get new ideas and are welcome to present them if they would like to proceed with their own project.

Living conditions and free time

Normally the volunteers live at the boarding school, and therefore it is usually requested, both from volunteers and students, to have common activities. This includes arrangements of sport and cultural events like tournaments, movie evenings, exhibitions etc.



There are many examples of previous volunteers who have been involved in organising school trips to Tallinn, Hungary and Prague, where the volunteer acted as a guide for the group and exchanged experiences and knowledge with each other. Since the school has a wide field of activities and many contacts, there are also other opportunities for tasks to do. There can also be the possibility for the volunteers to take part in primary school as assistants in helping the children with their homework in English. They can also take part in the school's daytime school for migrants, if they would like to see how this part of the school works.

Volunteer profile

- Social and communicative
- Willing to actively integrate with students and community of Mullsjö school
- Interested in outdoor activities
- Interested to learn from others and to exchange life experiences
- Motivated to create and manage own projects e.g social and cultural events, language classes, movie nights, games, presentations, creating a magazine etc.
- Interested and willing to learn the local language
- Interested and willing to adapt and learn from the local project and community.
- Able to take own initiative