

European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Activities

Project Description –

Katholische Jugend und Jungschar



Voluntary Project:	Katholische Jugend und Jungschar
Number of volunteers:	2
Project duration:	06.09.2021 – 31.07.2022 (10 months) 01.02.2022 – 31.07.2022 (6 months)

Project Topics:

- Ethics, religion and philosophy (incl. Inter-religious dialogue)
- Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy)

Contact (where to send the application):

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Hosting organisation:

Katholische Jugend & Jungschar, Dornbirn, AUSTRIA

Supporting/Coordinating organisation:

aha – Jugendinformationszentrum Vorarlberg. Dornbirn, AUSTRIA

Project description:

The Katholische Jugend und Jungschar Vorarlberg is an association with more than 7.000 members. Therefore, it is the biggest youth organisation in Vorarlberg. There are four main principles for our work with young people: support, personal development, spirituality and socio-political commitment. The organisation itself is non-commercial, non-profit, and pursues a (Catholic) churchly purpose. The organisation's purpose is to plan and accomplish churchly work with children and young people in Vorarlberg. Networking with other youth organisations in Vorarlberg and Austria is another important aspect of our work.

Additionally, the Katholische Jugend und Jungschar is responsible for children's and young people's lobby in general, and provides support for more than 130 parishes in Vorarlberg (financial support, ideas, trainings etc.). In the parishes there are small chapters of the Katholische Jugend und Jungschar like ministrants, youth groups or choirs, which are run by voluntary (unpaid) members.

Everyday life in our offices includes office work in general as well as the organisation of various activities for young people, that is young people in general and youngsters actively involved in parish work. These activities include workshops, youth exchanges, creative leisure time activities, seminars on different topics (youth work, teamwork, spirituality etc.) or trips (for example to Taizé).

Tasks of the volunteer:

The volunteer will work five days a week, 34 hours a week including German course. S*he will have two days holidays per month.

The volunteer in our organisation will get an insight into Catholic youth work in Vorarlberg and more general in Austria. He*she will learn a lot about working in a team and working on her*his own in an office, as office work is a major part of the everyday-routine. Moreover he*she will gather skills of planning, running and evaluating projects. The volunteer will develop many creative skills as preparing creative activities and workshops are major parts of the project. On the other hand our organisation will profit from the new ideas and the special skills which the volunteer brings in this project. Generally the volunteer will learn about the Austrian culture and will therefore help to reduce prejudices and stereotypes.

- **Events:** The main part of the volunteer's tasks is to with the preparation and organisation of the various activities our organisation: summer camps in Vorarlberg and abroad, creative events for children and young people, trainings for young people in various topics, events throughout the year (e.g. for Christmas and Easter).
- The volunteer helps to organise the program, can lead workshops if she*he wants, helps in public relations etc. There are also some workshops in the weekends where the volunteer will participate. If the volunteer is working in these workshops he*she will have the equivalent hours of free time in the following week.
- **Projects:** The second field of activities is the assistance with projects that we do along the year: camps, weekend-workshops for apprentices, music events, artistic workshops (painting, music), youth exchanges.

The volunteer is seen as a support to the whole team in various projects and events run by our organisation. He*she will be involved in the whole planning, running and evaluating process. Moreover the volunteer will have the chance to create his*her own project. Examples for such projects are: a game afternoon for kids, organise an intercultural evening, give a special workshop, ... We try to match activities for the volunteer with his*her own interests and strengths.

Volunteer profile:

The volunteer should be open for the goals and believes of the Catholic Church but does not have to be a member of the Church. He*she should like to work with children and young people and should be creative. Basic knowledge of German would be an advantage but is not necessary for the work in our office. He*she should be reliable. It would make things easier if the volunteer had a driving licence, but it is also not necessary.

How to apply:

Please write a mail with your CV (incl. picture of you, date of birth,...) and motivation letter to susanne.sparr@aha.or.at. After the application deadline there will be selection rounds with the staff of the hosting organisation! It's possible that we will contact you for further information through e-mail, phone calls or virtual meetings.

Don't forget to add the name of the project when you apply for it!

Practical arrangements:

The volunteer will live in an accommodation where also other volunteers live. It is organised by the host organisation. He*she will have a room with bathroom on her/his own and share a kitchen with other residents. The infrastructure with trains and buses is easy, quick and frequent and he*she will probably also have a bicycle at his*her disposal. The volunteer will receive a ticket for free use of any public transport in the whole region of Vorarlberg during the complete time.

Support during the voluntary service:

He*she will have regular meetings with her/his mentor in our organisation to talk about problems or critical incidents among other things. Additionally, he*she will have a junior mentor (=former volunteer) at his*her side to support her in situations of crisis. The Supporting/Coordinating Organisation will hold a monthly evaluation meeting with all volunteers in Vorarlberg. In the end of the project we will together with the volunteer evaluate the project, what s/he has learned and which competences s/he has gained and as a result fill out the Youthpass. Furthermore, there will be a final personal evaluation meeting with the Supporting/Coordinating Organisation.

Related links:

Project description on the European project databank:
https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/placement/25619_en

Website:
<http://www.kath-kirche-vorarlberg.at/jugend/organisation/katholische-jugend-und-jungschar/willkommen>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/junge.kirche.vorarlberg>