



Make a difference: Introduce Europe to a children's home

Volunteering activity from 01.09.2022 until 31.08.2023 in Aschaffenburg, Germany.

Project description

You like working with children and adolescents? You are sensitive to their needs, understanding, patient, creative and open to learn? Then the municipal children's home of Aschaffenburg is looking for you! There are living around 50 children and adolescents who can't live temporarily or permanently with their families. They are placed in 6 different groups, living together with their social workers and pedagogues. You would help and support the team with the organization and assistance of the daily routine of the children and adolescents. You help plan and participate in all kinds of leisure activities. Also, you get creative with your own project. The children's home is located close to the centre of Aschaffenburg. With 70 000 inhabitants, it is a very vibrant city with lots of opportunities to go out. Cinemas, theatres, museums, language schools, pubs, clubs and much more! Also, Frankfurt am Main is just 50 km away.



Accommodation, food and transport arrangements

You share a flat with another volunteer close to the centre of Aschaffenburg. You have your own room with shared bathroom and kitchen. The flat is fitted with a washing machine. Internet access is available. All costs related to the accommodation as well as the monthly food allowance of 263.00 € is paid by the hosting organisation. The children's home also provide a bike to get around.

Training during the project

- On-Arrival Training
- Mid-Term Training
- language course

Volunteer profile

- you have an ESC sending organization and are registered in PASS
- you are experienced in working with children and adolescents
- you are mature and responsible
- you have some basic knowledge of the German language
- you are curious about Germany and its culture
- you bring in your own ideas into the project



How to apply

Send an email with your CV and motivation letter to the coordinating organization IN VIA Aschaffenburg (europa@invia-aschaffenburg.de), stating the full details of your sending organisation.



Project Details:

The main objectives of the project are the following:

- to give the volunteer the opportunity to implement his/her own idea and exchange good practices.
- to develop new skills and abilities for the volunteer and young people involved.
- to raise the youngster's awareness in becoming active European citizens.
- to create awareness of personal, socio-cultural, and national aspects of identity.
- to develop a quality framework for informal educational activities.
- to strengthen the sense of European identity.

The chance to work as volunteer is a challenge and an opportunity to exchange experiences and good practice between all people involved in the project and the local community.

The volunteer will take part in many different tasks, according to her/his interests, abilities, and skills. The volunteer will plan activities to be carried out during his/her ESC together with the staff and mentor.

There won't be any strict schedule settled from the beginning, just a draft one that will be adjusted and modified according to the organization's needs and the volunteer's abilities.

The ESC activities will generally consist in giving support to the project staff in their daily activities. The tasks weren't designed to achieve profit, because the organization is non-profitable and doesn't intend to make financial gain from its activities.

Philosophy and working methods of the Städtisches Kinderheim Aschaffenburg:

The service will take place at:

Städtisches Kinderheim Aschaffenburg
Bessenbacher Weg 127, 63739 Aschaffenburg, Germany

Philosophy and working methods of the children's home:

We're a therapeutic pedagogic institution for educational help in the city of Aschaffenburg (70.000 inhabitants). Our residents are children and juveniles, 3 to 18 years old, who, for different reasons, can't live temporarily or permanently with their families. Around 50 children and grown-ups are in 6 different groups. Each group lives together with the co-workers in a cosy "family" home. Our responsibilities are organising and assisting in the daily routine, the pedagogic care and the support of the personal and social development of the youths. We work together with parents, youth welfare, schools and external specialists.

Life in our children's home:

Our institution is situated in an idyllic part of the city near the forest. The five houses encircle the playground for the children. Each group lives in a modern-furnished house with living-, play-, work-, and bedrooms (1-2 beds per room). In the main house, next to the group houses, is a big assembly room which is used for conferences and events. The director's office is situated there as well. Altogether 50 mostly pedagogically trained staff members work in shifts. The children have all the time carers around them. In the play ground and the sports field the children can move freely. The groups use the sports hall and the swimming pool of the school next door.

Overview of the different groups:

House 1: therapeutic pedagogical children's group I, 3 - 15 years

House 2: therapeutic pedagogical children's group II, 3 - 15 years

House 3: therapeutic pedagogical boys group, 12-17 years

House 4: therapeutic pedagogical girls group, 12-17 years

House 5: therapeutic pedagogical children's group III, 3 - 15 years

Main house: therapeutic pedagogical youth group, 16 - 21 years, single bedrooms with en suite bathrooms

Surroundings:

- The children's home is situated in a suburb of Aschaffenburg (70.000 inhabitants). By bicycle or bus, it takes 10 to 20 minutes to the city centre.
- Aschaffenburg is a beautiful, old city with a castle. The city offers diversity, has several cinemas, theatres, museums, a language school and a music school. The volunteer can access museums and swimming pools for free.
- Aschaffenburg is only 45 km away from Frankfurt/Main (airport) which has 700.000 inhabitants.

The European volunteers are an enrichment to the daily life of the children's home. We welcome them and they are treated as an additional team member. Of course this can also be difficult for them, e.g. when they hear about the family histories of the children or experience difficulties in adapting to everyday life. The children and teenagers are curious and open to learn more about other cultures. 6 qualified educators and a housekeeper are working in our team and one of them will be the volunteer's mentor. As it is also important that the volunteer has enough freedom, he or

she lives in her own flat shared with another volunteer approx. 20 minutes away by bus or bicycle to the children's home.

The volunteer will work in a children's group, 3 - 15 years. The tasks in all houses are similar:

- giving general assistance to the children and teenagers: homework, leisure activities, hobbies (music, sports, theatre group, swimming etc.); domestic duties
- participating in the organisation of leisure activities (doing sports, hiking, holidays, cycling trips etc.)
- cooking together, e.g. a meal from the native country of the volunteer or a typical German meal is served by the children and teenagers, also snacks, desserts or cakes
- preparing parties, such as the big summer party with performances of the children, open days, anniversaries, carnivals
- taking children to appointments (e.g. doctor, dentist etc.)
- as children need to have a structure in their life, taking part in their daily routine like eating lunch and/or dinner together

After settling-in, the volunteer is expected to bring in his or her own ideas. Courage and initiative to realise them together with the children and teenagers are very welcome.

Working hours and days off:

The volunteer will work a maximum of 38 hours per week (approx. 8 h of the 38 h per week are set aside for the volunteer's own creative activities or projects which contribute to the visibility and dissemination of the ESC and to improve the language skills), having 2 free days a week and 2 days off per month during the project. Days-off and holidays should be in accord with the team.

Possible schedule:

Monday + Wednesday:

13:00 - 19:00 (supervision of lunchtime and leisure activities/helping with homework/supper)

Tuesday:

09:00 –15:00 (participating in the team meeting, supervising homework and leisure activities)

Thursday:

13:00 – 19:00 (supervision of lunchtime and leisure activities/helping with homework/supper) + (language course in the morning)

Friday: 13:00 – 19:00 h (supervision of lunchtime and leisure activities/helping with homework/supper) + (language course in the morning)

Volunteer Allowance (Pocket Money):

The volunteer will receive a monthly allowance provided by the coordinating organisation (5€/day) via bank transfer.

Accommodation and Food:

The volunteer shares a flat with another volunteer near the centre of Aschaffenburg. The volunteer will have her own room with shared bathroom and kitchen. The flat is fitted with a washing machine. Internet access will be available. All the cost related to the accommodation will be supported by the hosting organisation.

Address of the flat: Frankenstrasse 15, 63739 Aschaffenburg, Germany

A monthly food allowance of 263.00 € will be provided via bank transfer for the volunteer by the hosting organisation.

Language Training Course:

The volunteer is eligible to receive linguistic support through *Online Linguistic Tool (OLT)* offered by the European Commission. The volunteer's knowledge of the German language will be tested before arrival via the grading test of the OLT. The results of the OLT test are taken as a basis for the linguistic support given to the volunteer for her German language development. If a language course in Aschaffenburg is available, the volunteer will be enrolled by IN VIA and can access the course for free.

Leisure activities:

IN VIA offers leisure activities like guided city tours, international youth club meetings, days out and cultural events to the volunteers at the weekends and evening times on a regular basis. Every volunteer is supported by a peer mentor, who has been abroad themselves and acts as a link between the organisations and the volunteer.



Local Transport:

The volunteer is provided with a bicycle. It takes 10-15 minutes to reach the project and the city centre, by walk it takes 20-30 minutes. During the winter season, the volunteer can also use the City Bus. The ticket will be organised by the coordinating organisation.

Risk Prevention, safety, and protection:

To guarantee protection and safety, the volunteer will be informed about general procedures in case of a dangerous situation. The volunteer will also have the main telephone numbers and localisation of useful services like national emergency number, fire department, police office, hospitals, and pharmacies. She will also be aware about the contact people inside the organisation like mentor, tutor, team, etc.

The volunteer will also be covered by health and accidents insurances, to guarantee their safety and protection.

Learning Outcomes:

The ESC volunteer will be able to develop several competences to improve his/her performance. Therefore, the hosting organization will provide the opportunity to the volunteer to have learning opportunities in different fields, such as:

approach to the tasks of the project; develop responsibility for the project; become more open to new ideas; develop the sense of initiative; ability to plan and organize activities for the project;

flexibility/adaptability and coping with new challenges; proactive attitude and independent work; leadership abilities; ability to face problems; ability to manage conflicts; develop a positive attitude in difficult situations; positive attitude in order to take pride in team performance; team work with colleagues to achieve desired goals; ability to maintain open communication; ability to contribute to a motivating environment.

Team orientation: work effectively with other volunteers and other members of the team; active attitude to contribute to the achievement of group and organizational goals; acceptance of shared responsibility and ownership of projects; maintenance of open communication among team members; assume commitment to team success; consistent contribution with new ideas to the organization / new projects.

Innovation and creativity: ability to develop and implement innovate ideas in the projects; ability to provide unique/different perspectives to improve activities; ability to encourage developing themselves and others.

Personal characteristics: maintain a positive attitude at work; ability to act responsibly; ability to share information willingly; ability to make judgements and decisions.

Cultural expression: knowledge about German culture; willing to show the culture of the volunteer and spread it among children and youngsters in multicultural projects.

Communication in a foreign language: ability to communicate in German to feel more integrated among the others; positive attitude towards the learning process of the German language; persistence to improve communication in German.

The volunteer is invited to take part in our regular meetings of the “Café International” (as well students, au-pairs, and other young foreigners). The Café International will be open once a month and is at the address of the coordinating organization: Pestalozzistr.17, 63739 Aschaffenburg

The coordinator and the hosting organization will do their best to find a good way to meet the requests of the volunteer, to offer more possibilities for experiences outside the “normal” ESC activity.

Crisis Management:

The ESC volunteer will have a mentor to whom she can turn in case of problems. The mentor will be also responsible for crisis management, to guarantee a good atmosphere among team members.

The volunteer will be given advice on crisis prevention and management during their on-arrival training.

He/She will also be provided with 24-hour emergency phone numbers.

The hosting organization will have all necessary personal information and emergency contact details for the volunteer.

Also, the mentor offers a 24-hour emergency phone number. Beside that the mentor also offers the volunteer a direct contact with the possibility to talk about any problem that might occur.