

# Get to know alternative ways of teaching!

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR ESC VOLUNTEERING PROJECT AT SCHOOLS

IN AUSTRIA, REGION OF STYRIA



**LOGO Jugendmanagement** serves as the lead coordinating organization for European Solidarity Corps projects in the Styria region of southwest Austria. We collaborate with five alternative private schools, which host ESC volunteers for an entire school year. Please find descriptions of each school in this information package.

- The pocket money in Austria is €7/day.
- Each school offers slightly different conditions regarding accommodation and self-supply, in line with program guidelines.
- Each school selects its volunteers independently.
- Only selected candidates will be invited for an interview.
- The selection process should be completed by the end of June.

## How to Apply:

- Fill out the questionnaire here: <https://formfacade.com/sm/8vrKzkLxT>
- Upload your CV and a specific motivation letter (written in English or German) to the form or, if the form doesn't work, send it to [esc@logo.at](mailto:esc@logo.at). We accept documents in Word or PDF format.
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The project is coordinated by LOGO Jugendmanagement. Please direct all questions to our organization to [esc@logo.at](mailto:esc@logo.at). For further instructions, please visit our webpage:

[www.logo.at/esc](http://www.logo.at/esc).

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## FREE WALDORFSCHOOL | FREIE WALDORFSCHULE GRAZ



**Location:** Graz, Austria

**Activity dates:** 02.09.2024 - 06.07.2024

The “Freie Waldorfschule Graz” (FWS) was founded by parents and teachers 40 years ago and is part of the worldwide Waldorf/Steiner-School association. FWS Graz is a general education comprehensive school with about 300 pupils and 45 teachers and covers classes 1 to 12. The actual Waldorf curriculum is based on the principles of Steiner’s pedagogical guidelines. It gives equal attention to the physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural, and spiritual needs of each pupil and is designed to work in harmony with the different phases of the child’s development. Focus is laid on artistic lessons like music, art, drama theatre and craft-based subjects as stone- and woodwork, tailoring, forging, weaving etc. This kind of education enables students to think and act independently with great interest in progress and development of culture and society.

### Role of the volunteers

The FWS host two volunteers. One of the volunteers preferably assist with Italian lessons, therefore priority is given to Italian native speakers. The second volunteer might assist with English, crafts, sports, gardening, or other lessons. Volunteer will have the opportunity to help students during the lessons, in the workshops, with projects, sports and in the afternoon care. We would appreciate open-minded, active volunteers with an interest in Waldorf Pedagogy and its practical implementation. Participants should be willing to learn with focus on personal development and German language and feel confident to deal with children and young adults from different social backgrounds. Showing an interest in art, music, handcraft, and theatre would be helpful.



*Work conditions:* Volunteers work 30 hours/week and have two consecutive days off per week, mainly Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes they help during school events, which take place on weekends. The volunteer will have 2 days holiday per month for the duration of the project which the volunteer can take at a stretch as agreed upon with FWS during school holidays.

*Volunteer benefits :* Volunteer will live in a private room in a shared flat. They might have lunch at the school kitchen and receive self-allowance according to program guidelines. A public transport ticket for the city area of Styria will be provided for the total duration of the stay. A bicycle might be available upon request.



*Training and support:* A volunteer will participate at On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meeting, organized by the National Agency. They will be supported by a task-related and a personal mentor. A volunteer will be able to take part in a German course and use the Online Language Support Tool. FWS provides task related support, supervision, and guidance to the volunteer through experienced staff (teachers, mentors).

### ***Volunteer's experience***

*I wanted to see if teaching was my path or not. It was a great to experience to try teaching on my own. I learned how to improvise and keep students engaged (although it was hard to work with teenagers...). I was immersed in Austrian culture and learned about their traditions and customs. As I was assisting and teaching Italian, representing my country was a daily task! It was nice to share insights on my culture with students – they were all very curious and had many questions!*



*I think this project provides my organization and the target group with a vivid example of "other": having a volunteer in a school for a year makes students understand better that there are people outside their culture and habits, and I think it's very important, especially for the younger students, because it makes them realize that there are people in the world that don't speak their language, don't know their culture, and are just different. The impact it had on me was great, I discovered many things about myself on a personal and work-related level thanks to this project.*



## PROJECT SCHOOL | PROJEKTSCHULE GRAZ



**Location:** Graz, Austria

**Activity dates** 02.09.2024 - 06.07.2024

Projektschule Graz is a private school, founded by parents 43 years ago. It is located in the city centre of Graz, which is a buzzing University town. It is a primary school for 80 kids in the age of 6-10. Besides reading, writing and maths, the kids learn how to express themselves vocally and in artistic ways, how they feel and what they need. The students learn democracy principles and to care about others and the environment. We believe that school is more than the official curriculum. As our name says: we have room for projects!

### **Role of a Volunteer**

As a volunteer, you will accompany school life every day, supporting children individually and aiding their learning processes. Additionally, you will assist during breaks, spending time with them in our beautiful garden. You are encouraged to bring your own creativity and passions, whether they lie in arts, music, theatre, dance, or any other form of expression.

We look for a person, who is responsible and motivated to help students, as well as assisting teachers. Ideal candidates should be open-minded, active, and initiative-taking, capable of interacting with children of different ages and social backgrounds. An interest in alternative pedagogy and specific skills in arts, music, handicrafts, or sports are also desirable.

Please prepare your CV and a motivation letter, explaining what motivates you to work in a democratic and creativity-driven primary school.



**Work Conditions:** The volunteer will work 30 hours per week with two consecutive days off, mainly on Saturdays and Sundays. Additionally, volunteer is entitled to two days of holiday per month, to be taken as agreed upon with Projektschule during school holidays.

*Volunteer Benefits:* The volunteer will live in a private room within a student dormitory and will have lunch at the school kitchen with daily fresh meals prepared by our own cook. The volunteer will receive a self-allowance according to program guidelines and will be provided with a public transport ticket for the city area of Styria for the duration of their stay. Upon request, a bicycle might also be available.

*Training and Support:* The volunteer will participate in On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meetings organized by the National Agency. They will be supported by both task-related and personal mentors. The Volunteer will have the opportunity to take part in a German course and utilize the Online Language Support Tool. Projektschule will provide task-related support, supervision, and guidance through experienced staff such as teachers and mentors.

### **Volunteer's experience**

*"I felt so much love and received so much kindness from the children, I am really amazed. I saw our children growing up so much those seven months, it was so important for me to see my impact on them. The project has now a special place in my heart and I will forever remember those seven months, with the good and tougher times".*



## SCHOOL IN PFEIFFERHOF | SCHULE IM PFEIFFERHOF



**LOCATION:** Graz, Austria

**ACTIVITY DATES:** 08.09.2024 - 06.07.2024

An alternative school in Pfeifferhof | Schule im Pfeifferhof (SiP), is a non-profit institution initiated by parents for their children. A team of eight teachers is responsible for the education of 85 children. The school operates according to reform-pedagogical principles (Montessori, Piaget), which means that the work is oriented towards the needs and wishes of children. The learning methods are based on "practical" work and projects. One of the principles of our school is "learning by doing". We strive to create an environment for our children that enables them to make their own experiences, where they can both acquire cultural techniques and develop social competencies. They also learn to handle rules and boundaries in a democratic manner. Typically, our children stay for nine years until they have completed their compulsory education. It is part of our philosophy to promote intercultural exchange.

### **Role of a Volunteer**

We are hosting two young persons who are working with either *primaria* or *sekundaria* groups. The volunteers are expected to collaborate with teachers and enrich daily activities with their input, including insights from their home country. There is a wide range of possibilities for volunteer activities in our school, including arts, sports, music, dance, theatre, games. One of the most important principles of our school is "learning by doing," so there are many ways the volunteer can integrate and, together with the teachers, prepare activities for and with the pupils (such as singing songs in their mother tongue, cooking typical meals, doing arts projects with the children, and creating projects on different topics related to the volunteer's home country). Near to our school, there is a large outdoor area including a sports field, a playground, and a forest, providing plenty of room for the volunteer to support teachers in various outdoor activities.





**Work Conditions:** The volunteers will support the team during lessons and afternoon care. Tasks in afternoon care include preparing food for the children who remain in the school, kitchen duties, and childcare from 11:30 to 16:30 for three days a week. In addition to these responsibilities, we would like the volunteers to participate in excursions and outdoor activities, as well as our winter and summer camps.

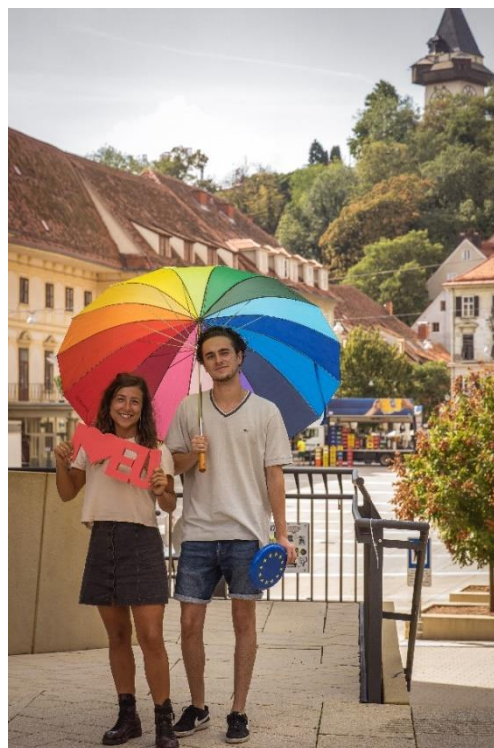
**Volunteer Benefits:** Two volunteers will live in an apartment and have their own rooms. We will provide a ticket for the use of public transport in Graz. The volunteers will receive breakfast and a snack at school from Monday to Friday, and lunch from Monday to Thursday. Additionally, the volunteers will receive a monthly allowance for food.

**Training and Support:** Volunteers will participate in On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meetings organized by the National Agency. They will have the opportunity to take part in a German course and use the Online Language Support Tool. The school provides task-related support, supervision, and guidance through experienced staff. There will be a weekly meeting between the volunteer and the teachers of the group the volunteer is working with. This is to ensure that all parties can coordinate their activities for the pupils. The volunteer is also invited to attend a staff meeting once a week.

## Volunteer's experience

*"The activities of the project helped me discovering a new world for me, showing me other sides of the education which I think are important to take in consideration also in the traditional education. I think that having two volunteers coming from different countries is really important for developing the kids' skills in understanding as soon as possible the interconnected and globalised world where you, with a little effort, can communicate with the others growing up together."*

*"This project has changed my view about volunteering. Such a nice discovery. I wanted to try something different. To learn from others and help them while I enjoy and live and completely new experience. And after this whole year, I'm sure I found what I was looking for."*



## REFORM-PEDAGOGICAL SCHOOL „SONNENHAUS“



**LOCATION:** Leibnitz, Austria

**ACTIVITY DATES:** 02.09.2024 – 06.07.2025

Private School "Sonnenhaus" offers an alternative education for children aged 6-14 years, based on principles of progressive education, especially Montessori and nonviolent communication. The school aims at supporting and guiding children on their way to becoming responsible, confident, and open-minded individuals. Additionally, the school strives to deepen contacts and intensify common activities with other educational institutions and establish a center for progressive education in the region and across the border to Slovenia. Currently, there are 60 children attending the school.

### **Role of the Volunteers**

The "Sonnenhaus" school welcomes volunteers and integrates them closely into the daily work and community. Two volunteers support teachers in classrooms, engaging in project groups as a main tool characterized by independent work guided and supported by teachers. This provides ample opportunity for volunteers to accompany children in their learning process and after-school care. Volunteers become acquainted with the prepared environment and learning materials with support from qualified teachers. The school views volunteers and their personal, cultural, and lingual backgrounds as enrichments to the education of the children, actively incorporating their knowledge and personality into school activities. Volunteers are also integrated into common activities and the local community.

*Volunteers Benefits:* Volunteers receive accommodation in Leibnitz, close to the school and public transport. They also receive a self-allowance money according to program guidelines. The school is conveniently located near the center of Leibnitz and the train station. Volunteers can reach the school via public transport or by bike.

*Work Conditions:* The volunteers will support the team during lessons and afternoon care. Tasks in afternoon care include preparing food for the children who remain in the schoolland preparing



learning materials. Also, volunteers to participate in excursions and outdoor activities, as well community meetings.

*Training and Support:* Volunteers participate in On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meetings organized by the National Agency. They have the opportunity to take part in a German course and use the Online Language Support Tool. The school provides task-related support, supervision, and guidance through experienced staff. Additionally, volunteers can expect to gain valuable practical experience in working with children aged 6-14, practical and theoretical skills in progressive education methods and nonviolent communication.

## Volunteers experience



*"I wanted to go abroad to gain a new experience, learn how they worked in another school with a different methodology, see and try new things, still, I had doubts, because it was my very first experience abroad. The first few days in my new home were strange. Even though I was very welcomed there, I felt a little weird, I think I felt culture shock. I could only communicate in English, as I was totally unaware of German, but with time and some language courses that changed.*

*Thanks to this experience, I have trained myself as a person and as a young professional. I gained new knowledge which can serve me in the future. I improved my character and personality. I faced challenges and overcame fears. I improved my ability to work in a team, I learned how to listen to others and accept criticism. Good relationships to teachers played a fundamental role in the integration in the school and helped all of the above. I had the opportunity to meet new people from different countries, and learn*

*new things from all of them, which was amazing. I am sure, these friendships will last, even though we came back to our home countries".*

*"The most positive experience during my project was the relationship with the children and with the volunteers. It was emotional: I faced different moments and I learned from each of them. I think there was a mutual learning between the children and me, I feel we had a special connection which made this experience so important. I hope I was useful for the school, and I also hope they will go on with this alternative world, because I believe it could have an incredible impact on future."*

*I learned to look at things from a different point of view when mine does not work. This project has changed my behavior: through this experience I became more aware of my strengths and limits. I definitely improved as a person.*



## PRIVATE SCHOOL VULKANSCHULE | VOLCANO SCHOOL



**LOCATION:** Feldbach, Austria

**ACTIVITY DATES:** 06.09.2022 – 07.07.2023

The Vulkanschule is a primary and secondary school for pupils aged 6–14. It is a small school, with all together 47 pupils, situated in the countryside in South-Eastern Austria. We aim to create a home-like atmosphere at school and inspire kids to learn with joy. The Vulkanschule is the only school following a reformist education in this region. We teach mainly according to Maria Montessori and Peter Petersen`s Jenaplan. One of our most important principles are: the non-violent communication, the respect for the development of the child, the respect for each human being and for the creation. Central ideas of our pedagogy are a holistic, project-oriented, interdisciplinary, and mixed-age education, learner-centred, action-oriented, and eager to keep up the joy of learning.

### **Role of the volunteer**

One volunteer assist school staff primarily during classes and afternoon activities. Your duties include preparing learning materials, supporting during lunchtime and breaks, and developing your own project. We seek open-minded, active individuals comfortable with children of varying ages and backgrounds. A specific interest in pedagogy is valued, as well as a passion for arts, music, sports, languages, etc. You should be eager support education and make a difference in a small, family like community and be willing to bring new perspectives for children, who live in a rural area.

*Volunteers benefits :* The volunteer will live in a shared flat in Graz. They will have transport ticket for the region of Styria and will be going by train from Graz to Feldbach, and by school bus from the city Feldbach directly to the school. They will also receive a self-allowance money according to program guidelines.

*Work Conditions:* The volunteers will support the team during lessons and afternoon care. Tasks in afternoon care include preparing food for the children who remain in the school and preparing

learning materials. Also, volunteers to participate in excursions and outdoor activities, as well community meetings.

*Training and Support:* A volunteer will participate at On-Arrival Training and Mid-term meeting, organized by the National Agency. They will be supported by a task-related and a personal mentor. The volunteer will be able to take part in a German course and use the Online Language Support Tool.

## **Volunteers experience**

*The most positive experience during my project was the happiness you could see in the eyes of the children when you enter the room. I wanted to get to know more of the world and grow with challenges. Which I did quite well. I really developed a lot in a year.*

*It was hard to find a good balance between being a good "friend" and a teacher, but I learned to get more confident. I got to know myself even better: noticing boundaries and noticing where I should draw a line. I want to study psychology and the project only reinforced my desire as it was really adorable to work with the kids.*

