

European Solidarity Corps Volunteering Project (ESCA4)

Towards Christmas Spirit 2024

10th to 30th of November 2024

Info Pack



Location: Youth Centre Piispala, Kannonkoski, Central Finland

Here is information about Youth Centre Piispala

Piispala is the biggest of the eight national Youth Centres in Finland. We are supported by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. One of the main goals of the center is to support, maintain and develop of the local, national and international youth work. We are a non-profit organization.

Piispala is in the rural part of Central Finland, also called Lakeland. As it is, Piispala is surrounded by beautiful pine forest and Lake Kivijärvi. Location is safe and peaceful. Nearest store is 7 km way and there is no public transport from or to Piispala. The nearest small town is 40 km away and bigger city 100 km away from Piispala. Prepare to spend three weeks in a beautiful nature surrounded unique Finnish location!

Piispala has about 50 staff members. We organize camps and activities mainly for youth groups, but also for families, sports groups and seniors. We can accommodate up to 400 persons and we offer over 50 activities to choose from. Find out more: <https://piispala.fi/en/> The center provides rooms for sports facilities such as swimming hall, Animal home, an ice rink, 4-line bowling alley, 2 sports halls, 2 gyms, climbing tower, a climbing and a bouldering walls, skiing paths, Frisbee-golf track, a beach and football hall with an artificial turf. In addition, there are facilities for music, food preparation and crafts.



Together with the other 8 Youth Centers we for a network.

All of the Centers are unique, but each of us share the same values and pedagogical approach for instruction.

Each of the Centers also conducts various international activities.

To read more about the Centers, visit: www.snk.fi



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project description

In this project "Towards Christmas Spirit 2024" we are looking for 10-24 volunteers from different countries to Youth Centre Piispala for three weeks to Volunteering team. Volunteers arrive to Piispala on Sunday 10th of November 2024 and their departure is on Saturday 30th of November 2024.

Topic of the volunteering period is Creating Christmas spirit together by organizing good mood Christmas events and workshop and decorating the environment. Project main aim is to develop accessibility and internationality in our Youth Centre and rural Northern part of Central Finland. The group will bring internationality to Piispala and our customers while making important contribution to creating the Christmas atmosphere - both social and cultural.

The activities and aims of the project

The volunteers will first be brought together as a group. They will get to know each other and how to conduct group work together. The project aim is to prepare and facilitate Christmas events and workshop and decorate the Piispala Youth Centre for Christmas. The Christmas spirit comes from being at one with nature and decorating in a way that respects the environment.

Participants will decorate the area with Christmas lights and decorations made from nature/secondhand materials. During the volunteering period, participants will also organize events and workshop. One of events will be a side event during the Declaration of Christmas peace for families, children and young people in the surroundings of the Pihka Animal Home, where there will be an elf adventure track. An event for elderly people will be arranged in the same setting. Third event is for young people from the local community/ communities, volunteers will organize a Christmas craft workshop to them.

We want to show how much good can be done with this type of project, to empower the youth improve their community (either abroad or in their own country) while they acquire new skills, make friends, learn to manage themselves and develop a solidarity soul. We want also to offer the volunteers opportunity to learn working life skills, non-formal learning and practical skills (e.g. how to work with groups).

The volunteers will work 5 days a week 7 hours per day lunch hour included. Worktimes are mainly during the office work hours. There might be work sometimes in the evening and weekends too.

Participant profile

We welcome all participants to apply who are interested. We would like to select participants from different countries. The participants are aged 18 – 30 years old. We will select participants that are most suitable for the project and who have the most need for it and who are motivated to join the project. We would prefer participants who are interested of working outdoors, in creating art and decorating and doing group work. To volunteer you need basic English skills. We will select the participants by first reading their CV's and after that interviewing them via Teams.

Youthpass

Youthpass is a recognition tool for reflection and for measuring the learning outcomes. It is online and you will get the certificate after the volunteering as a paper version and as a pdf document.

<https://www.youthpass.eu/fi/>

Pocket money

The volunteers are paid pocket money, and the amount is 5€/day. Money is paid either in cash or to the volunteer's account.

Travel and travel money

Participants need to pay travel themselves. Piispala will reimburse the travel after the volunteering period. Note that Maximum travel costs for each participant depends on Distance Calculator approved rates. If travel costs exceed the maximum amount of the official Distance Calculator the participant must pay the excess himself/herself/themselves. Participants will not be reimbursed more travel costs than what the tickets / receipts are shown for paid amounts. Travel is reimbursed to the volunteer after volunteer has arrived to Piispala and Piispala has received all the travel documents (Receipts, invoice, tickets, boardingpasses...). Participant can fly to Helsinki airport where participant can travel to Jyväskylä by train or bus. Piispala arranges charter bus from Jyväskylä to Piispala.

Insurance

The volunteer is insured during the project. Also, the volunteer needs to have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The sending organisation will send Volunteer an offer in PASS, when volunteer accepts the offer his/her/their info will transfer to Beneficiary Module where insurance is activated when Piispala fills in all the project info. The volunteers are insured by Henner. The volunteer is insured during the project. The volunteer will receive insurance number by email.

Accommodation

The volunteers will accommodate in Piispala's accommodation row house Kettu ("Fox"). You can see more about the accommodation here: [Kettu and Orava row houses – Piispala](#)

There is Wi-Fi in the accommodation. The volunteers are free to use Piispala's other facilities like gym, swimming hall, bowling alley, if not used by groups. They will have a washing machine in the same building and can change clean linen whenever they want (laundry is next to them, linen they do not wash themselves).

Meals

Piispala has a full board, and the volunteers will eat in our diner. If the diner is closed in case there are no customers, the volunteers will take food with them to the accommodation, where they can store the food in their kitchen. Food restrictions and allergies are very common in Finland but please inform them before arrival, so the kitchen is prepared.

Website

Our website: <https://piispala.fi/en/>

You can see Piispala Virtually: <https://valveuni.fi/piispala/>

Social media

Facebook: Piispala, Piispala Global

Instagram: @piispalafi @piispala_global @pienelainkotipihka

Questions? Contact Elina ☺

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