

## Sauga Open Youth Center

### ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Sauga Open Youth Center was established in November 2006, it is a governmental organisation which works in local level. The aim of Sauga Open Youth Center is to organize and arrange local young people's, aged 7-26 years, spare time through different events, activities, camps, outings, projects, meetings, trainings etc). Also it has a prevention function to avoid violence, alcoholism, smoking and drug addiction among youngsters in Sauga area.

Besides Sauga Open Youth Center, in Sauga commune in Urge village there is Urge Leisure Center.

Both centers cooperate with several organisations in local area (school, kinder garden, local municipality, sports club, libraries, also around Estonia (other youth centers, police etc).

Sauga Open Youth Center was renovated in 2009-2011. In center there are rooms for bands, multimedia classroom, dressing room for artists, hall, sauna, leisure rooms with computers, billiard, X-box games, board games, kitchen, room for meetings, trainings, work shops etc.

Sauga Open Youth Center has 2 workers, a manager/youth worker and administrator-cleaner, who also helps to look after youngsters in youth center.

The Center is opened five days a week, Monday to Friday 3 pm until 9 pm. Many events are taking place during the weekends also (like camps, contcerts, markets, festivals, sports days etc). Around 40 youngsters visit youth center every day. All the activities are free for the youngsters, because Sauga Open Youth Center is financed by local municipality and from different projects.

In Sauga commune there are 4070 inhabitants, over 1400 are aged 7-26 years old. Sauga commune has the youngest population in Estonia (average age is 34 years old).

### Project context

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September until May youngsters could take part from different courses (arts and crafts, quitarr and drum classes, cookery club etc), during summer youth center organises different camps (the themes could be: environment, sports, adventure etc), also work camps for youngsters aged 13-18 years old. In the center youngsters use computers, TV games, play billiard and

different board games and communicate with each other or with youth worker. Sauga Open Youth Center has 2 workers, a manager/youth worker and administrator-cleaner, who also helps to look after youngsters in youth center.

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commune there are 10 villages and 1 hamlet. Sauga commune is situated 1 km from Pärnu town, Summer Capital of Estonia. The transport connection between Sauga and Pärnu is very

good, the bus stop is located next to the youth center. Pärnu is the main town where youngsters and children from Sauga are going to school, take part from different activities (music, sports etc), spend free time etc. In Pärnu there are several shopping centers, possibility to go cinema, spend time in different SPAs, enjoy cultural life (different festivals during the summer and winter) and nightlife. Tallinn, Capital City of Estonia is situated 127 km from Pärnu, also the transport connection is good and more opportunities to spend leisure time.

## **Proposed Activities**

Sauga Open Youth Center as a hosting organisation for an international volunteer would be good and useful experience for us (for a team, youngsters and commune) and for a volunteer. The volunteer will bring freshness to our center and Sauga commune and also motivate youngsters to think about their future. The volunteer will raise intercultural awareness among the youngsters and the staff and will give a new reason for the youngsters to visit the youth center, organise events and take part from different events.

This project has educational value for the volunteer. She/he will get the experience of youth work, social work and pedagogical work with youngsters in different society. The youth center is the place where the volunteer with youngsters can realise her/his ideas. The youngsters are very open-minded and willing to try different new and interesting activities. The volunteer will have a good support to find the best activities for her/himself. Direct contact with locals the volunteer has an opportunity to get to know Estonian culture, visit different places and see the country. Through the activities, communication with youngsters, the volunteer can develop her/his skills, knowledge and personality.

The volunteer can be involved in every activity in youth center (events, camps, outings, sports days etc). Of course the volunteer is more than welcome to take initiative and share her/his own ideas for the activities for youngsters. Youngsters are very thankful and excited to communicate with a new person (from abroad), play with her/him and spend time together (play board games, billiard, Xbox etc).

The activities for the volunteer in the Sauga Open Youth Center are seen as follows:

- Organising different activities (games etc) for the youngsters. Every day in the youth center we offer different activities (tournament of billiard etc). The volunteer can play board games, X-box games with youngsters, do arts and crafts with them, play different sports games (inside and outside). The volunteer is welcome to organise her/his own course (dancing, arts and crafts, acting, music etc).
- Helping to prepare and organise different culture and youth events. Every summer the youth center is co-organiser of summer festival, where we supervise different workshops, organise games for children, do art and crafts, entertain visitors etc. The volunteer can help with planning the event and workshops and is more than welcome to share her/his ideas for the event.
- Helping with projects. Every year we write different projects to get an extra finance for the activities, camps etc. The volunteer can help with the ideas and actionplan and is very welcome to supervise planned course or workshop.
- Arranging outings, excursions, exhibitions etc. The youth center is organising summer camp for youngsters in August where we do different educational, active, exciting and funny things, activities. Have outings and adventure trips etc. Also in June youth center organise labour camps for youngsters aged 13-18. The workplaces are in different companies. Also Sauga Opened Youth Center is connected to NGO Pärnu Bay Partnership where our responsibility is to organise different camps, meetings and events for youngsters from 10 boroughs of Pärnu county.
- Presenting her/his own country and country as a part of the intercultural learning. The volunteer can organise intercultural evenings/days in the youth center or in other community institution (school, kindergartens, local municipality etc) where she/he introduces different dishes, talk about traditions, culture etc.
- Communicating with youngsters in foreign language which help youngsters in their language studies. Every day communication with youngsters will help and encourage them to speak in

foreign language and local people could teach estonian to the volunteer.

- Assisting activity tutors in their activities.

The division of the tasks may be changed and adapted for certain volunteer, depending on her/his interests and skills. New ideas and proposals to enrich youngsters' life are very important for the youth center.

The working day will be around 7 hours, working week will not exceed 35 hours. The volunteer will have 2 days a week off, which is not necessarily on weekend.

### **Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process**

The most important is that volunteer wants to work with youngsters. Volunteer is willing to take part and organise different events. Previous experience is not necessary, but could help.

Volunteer is expected to be friendly, open-minded, helpful, active, flexible and tolerant. She/he should be ready to take initiatives and has to be responsible person. Non smoking is appreciated.

Volunteers are asked to fill in an application form, which will be the base of the selection. Staff of the project chooses the volunteer, whose profile and interests match the best with the activities of the project.

### **Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety**

The host organisation will ensure:

1. that the volunteer work is safe and been assessed for risk;
2. that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards;
3. that volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed;
4. that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff.
5. that the volunteer has tutor from the staff and more than one mentors;
6. that the volunteer will have a comfortable accommodation near youth center or in Pärnu city.