



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

VOLUNTEERING AT MIKADO FOSTER CHILDREN IN CARE



PEDAGOGY AND DAILY SUPPORT OF CHILDREN

Apply for a 12-months project in
Kirchbichl, Tirol, Austria!

Volunteering starts in October 2020

HOSTING ORGANISATION



Pro Juventute Mikado Located in Kirchbichl, Austria



- * Pro Juventute Mikado is part of the Pro Juventute network, a licenced Austrian not-for-profit agency. It is a residential group home that assists children and young people who for varying reasons can no longer remain with their parents. Given their difficult backgrounds, most of the children exhibit signs of trauma to varying degrees.
- * Typically, the children who live at the Mikado house are between the ages of nine and 18 years of age. Some are also assisted in independent living until they are 21.
- * The aim is to allow children and teenagers in the rural area of Kufstein to grow up in a sheltered, caring and nurturing environment.
- * At present, the Mikado team is comprised of about 12 dedicated professionals. There is an even ratio between male and female staff and those who may be considered young and old. Six nationalities are represented within the staff team.



COORDINATING ORGANISATION + FUNDING



The coordinating organisation of this project is InfoEck, a youth info centre in Innsbruck. InfoEck coordinates eight volunteers in the region of Tirol.

This project will be submitted by InfoEck to the Austrian National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps programme. We will know whether it will be funded in July 2020. We are optimistic, due to good experiences in the past. This Solidarity Corps volunteering project will be financed by the EU, InfoEck and the school. The only possible contribution that the volunteer may need to undertake is a small share of the travel costs.

The responsible coordinator is ready to answer open questions and to prepare the project with the Schulgarten, the selected volunteer and the supporting sending organisation.

The coordinator's name is Eva-Maria: eva-maria.kirschner@infoeck.at (send applications to Daniel of the Mikado team, not to Eva-Maria!).

Infos about InfoEck: www.mei-infoeck.at, InfoEck Facebook, Instagram and Youtube

LOCATION, HOUSING, MONEY

The volunteer will be provided with a room in a shared flat (probably in the town of Wörgl, nearby Kirchbichl). At present, this two-bedroom flat is comprised of a kitchen, living room and bathroom. The flat is 30 minutes away (by foot) from Mikado but can be reached much faster by bike or bus. A bike will be made available. The volunteer will be supported to receive an annual ticket for public transportation in Tirol.

The volunteer will receive monthly EUR 150,-- pocket money and a sufficient amount of food money. Additionally, the volunteer can enjoy meals at Mikado during working times.

Kirchbichl is a small village situated in the middle of the Alps. The climate is varied with warm summers and cold winters. There are several possibilities for summer and winter sports. The close-by towns of Kufstein and Wörgl have good infrastructure. There are plenty of stores, restaurants and out- and indoor leisure time facilities. The train connections to places such as Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol are very good, Innsbruck being only 45 minutes away by train. From Wörgl, it's only 30 minutes by train to Innsbruck.

Local people speak a German dialect ("Tirolerisch"). The majority of people in Tyrol can speak English, especially young people. The volunteer will be expected to attend a four-months-long German course in the University of Innsbruck.



TASKS & ACTIVITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER



The volunteer will assist the staff in caring for the children and young people in their daily life.

Working hours will be a maximum of 35 hours a week, mainly in the afternoon and early evenings (the above-mentioned German course will be counted as working time). At times the volunteer may be required to work the whole day. The bulk of the hours will be during the week but also may include weekends. Precise hours will be arranged between the staff and volunteer.

Proposed tasks for the volunteer:

- Assisting with tasks such as: cooking, helping the children with the homework, accompanying them to appointments, and performing household tasks
- Taking part in leisure and free time activities
- Organising and taking part in special activities such as trips to the theatre, 2 day summer cycling tour, walking tours or similar
- Developing and implementing his or her own projects, according to the volunteers interests and experience.
- Solving conflicts with the children, learning from staff about the pedagogic concept, taking part in team meetings



PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a volunteer who is between 20 and 30 years old, can identify with the project description and is willing to enrich our team for one year.

We would like to host an enthusiastic and open-minded volunteer, who is willing to play an active part in working with the children. Team work and the ability to reflect on one's own actions and attitudes are essential.

The ability to speak German is an advantage, but the willingness to learn essential. This may include learning the basics of German before the start of the project in order to be able to communicate with the children. Without German knowledge, a medium level of English is important in order to communicate with the team and coordinator.

We expect our volunteer to be an honest, trustworthy and discrete person as many aspects concerning children must be held confidential.

Only EU residents and people who live in the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway can apply for this call.



PROJECT DURATION

12 Months: The project starts in the first week of October 2020 and lasts until the end of September 2021.

We ask you to only apply if you are committed to participate the whole duration. This is important for the project, your own learning development and for the hosting organisation!



SUPPORT DURING THE PROJECT

The volunteer will have regular meetings with her or his mentor and with the hosting organisation in order to review progress, reflect on experiences or discuss project activities. The volunteer will mainly receive orientation and support from his/her coordinator and mentor. At the same time, the team members working on any given day will offer this support.

The coordinating organisation InfoEck will hold a regular group meeting with all volunteers in Tyrol in order to share experiences, give support to one another and to stay connected. The volunteer will be invited to participate in occasional free-time activities. The volunteer will be able to attend a 4-months-long German course at the University in Innsbruck, starting in October 2020.

At the end of the project we will evaluate it together with the volunteer and look at what he or she has learned and which competences he or she has gained and as a result the volunteer can fill in the Youthpass certificate.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send your CV and the enclosed APPLICATION FORM to Mr. Daniel Harrison (responsible person for the volunteer at Mikado) via e-mail: daniel.harrison@projuventute.at

We accept applications only via e-mail, not via the Solidarity corps portal!

The deadline to apply is the 18th of March 2020.

Only for EU residents and people who live in the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.

Only complete applications via e-mail will be considered.

Option: You can additionally send something creative to express your motivation (this is not demanded, but it can be a plus).

Mikado will get in touch with the applicants after the deadline, so check your e-mail regularly. A few applicants will be invited for a skype talk / phone call. The final decision will be taken about two weeks later by Mikado and all applicants will be informed about their status.

We are waiting to hear from you!



Embrace the challenge. Be open to leaving your comfort zone several times. Be curious about yourself and others and ready to meet inspiring people.

Try new things and learn for a lifetime!

