

YOUTH CENTRES IN STYRIA

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



About

LOGO jugendmanagement coordinates youth centres accros Styria. These centres act as host organisations for ESC volunteering projects.

Youth Centre Jugendcafé Arena in Gratkorn

Youth Centre Arena in Gratkorn is a welcoming space for young people to connect, explore, and grow. They offer a safe and supportive environment where youth can spend their free time, discover new interests, and build meaningful relationships. Gratkorn is a small town easily reachable from Graz by public transport or even by bike. Youth center Arena is situated next to a public park, which offers great opportunities for outdoor activities.

The work of the youth center is rooted in inclusion, participation, and empowerment, because every young person deserves a place where they feel seen, heard, and valued.

Youth workers support young people from diverse backgrounds and encourage them to shape their own experiences. Whether they come to relax, get creative, or seek guidance, Arena youth café is open to their ideas and energy.

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday: 15:00 – 20:00, Saturday: 13:00 – 18:00

From Tuesday to Friday regular visitors are aged 12 and above. On Saturdays as well as during excursions or special appropriate activities, children under 12 are welcome to participate



Youth Centre AUSZEIT in Gleisdorf

AUSZEIT is a youth centre in Gleisdorf, a town in eastern Styria. It offers children and young people aged 10 and above a place where they can meet friends, spend their free time and take part in different activities in a relaxed atmosphere without any pressure to consume.

The centre offers a wide range of recreational activities, including billiards, darts, table football, PlayStation 5 and Nintendo Switch. The team also organises tournaments, events and excursions, while music and other activities are shaped around the interests and wishes of the young people themselves.

An important characteristic of AUSZEIT is its strong focus on youth social work. At least two youth workers are present during opening hours and are available not only for recreational activities, but also for confidential, free and anonymous counselling. They support young people who are facing difficult situations and can also provide support outside the youth centre, for example in public spaces or at events.

Respect, tolerance and positive interaction are central to everyday life at AUSZEIT. Young people are encouraged to participate, share their ideas and help shape the centre and its activities. This combination of open youth work, leisure activities and social support makes AUSZEIT both a meeting place and a source of support for young people in Gleisdorf.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 13:00–18:00, Friday to Saturday: 15:00–20:00



What can volunteers expect at both youth centres

ACTIVITIES: At the centres, young people can enjoy:

- Games: Table football, billiards, PlayStation, and board games.
- Sports: Access to nearby football, basketball, and volleyball courts, as well as a calisthenics park.
- Creativity: Handicraft workshops, art projects, and themed activities.
- Learning: Homework support, workshops on youth-relevant topics, and opportunities to learn new skills.
- Relaxation and Events: Large lounge area with space for communal cooking, music-making, and celebrations.
- Youth-specific activities: Events and workshops tailored for different interests and age group

TEAM: Each youth worker team consists of experienced educators who are passionate about forming meaningful connections with young people. They work with empathy, humour and flexibility, and prioritise trust and authenticity in their relationships with young people. Volunteers are welcomed as part of the team and supported in finding their role. The team encourages open communication and shared reflection, and is always open to new ideas and perspectives.

ATMOSPHERE: the teams of each youth centre aim to create an atmosphere that feels informal, open, and youth-led – where young people can shape the space according to their needs. The workers also provide help with school-related tasks and offer space for studying, workshops, and personal development. They are ready to support young people in finding jobs, apprenticeships, or further education opportunities. Also, they offer guidance and advice throughout the application process and can provide information on gaining international work experience.

TASKS: The volunteers will be involved in many aspects of the daily work. The main tasks may include:

- Supporting open youth work activities (games, cooking, crafts, conversations...)
- Helping run workshops or small events
- Assisting with social media and creative documentation
- Bringing in your own ideas and culture
- Creating and leading a small personal project (with support)

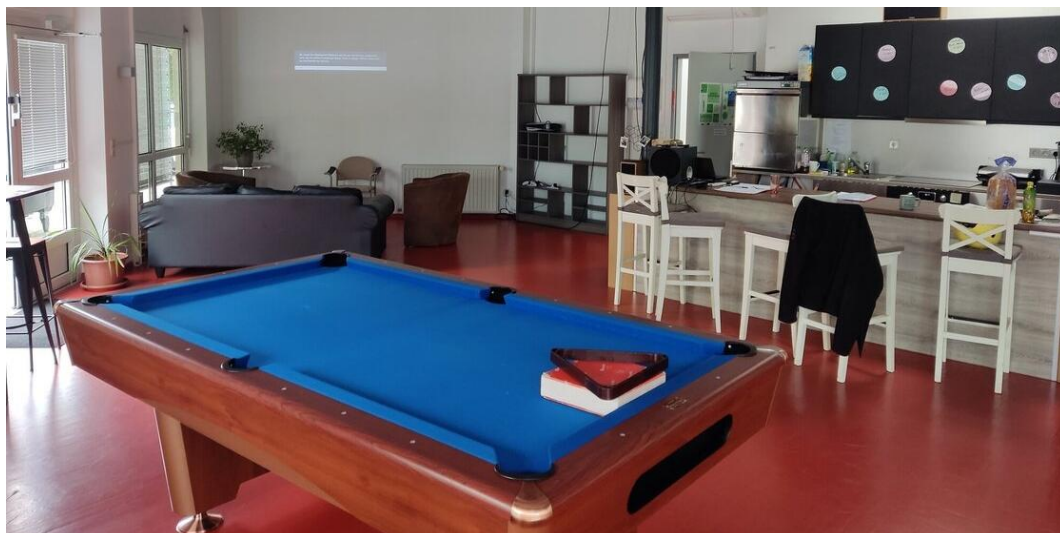


BENEFITS:

- The volunteers receive food allowance of 330 Euro/month and pocket money 210 Euro/month according to ESC program guidelines. Travel and visa costs are also covered by the program.
- Accommodation is provided in a student dormitory in Graz, a single room in a shared flat. Local transportation to the youth centre (public transport ticket) is covered.
- Basic German will help you feel more connected – both in the center and in daily life. You'll receive one German language course.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Volunteers take part in On-Arrival Training and Mid-Term Training provided by the Austrian National Agency. A German language course is offered, and volunteers receive continuous support from experienced youth workers.





Profile of an ESC Volunteer at Youth Centres

Youth Centres are looking for an open-minded person who is willing to embrace diversity and cultural differences within the multicultural youth community. A volunteer should be communicative, proactive, and able to interact with young people. Concrete ideas for youth work and the ability to organise own projects are welcome. The volunteer should show a genuine interest in social issues and educational approaches. Reliable, responsible, trustworthy and a team player who contributes to a positive working environment. Motivated to learn and speak German.

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