

Organization and project profile 2023-2024



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Accreditation Type:	Accreditation of Youth Volunteering Organizations
Accreditation reference:	2016-1-NL02-KA110-001451
Project name:	Volunteering in a Multicultural background
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The Organization

Don Bosco Rijswijk is a multi-cultural youth center, located close by the well-known city of The Hague, in a green area in Rijswijk. The center works with children and youths from different backgrounds for more than half a century. We welcome 7000 to 8000 young and elderly visitors per year. We have a varied array of activities for children and youths with a special focus on free time activities and non-formal education. We also create opportunities and organize activities for the neighborhood so that people can meet each other and share experiences in a safe and fun community. Our way of working is inspired and based on the pedagogy of Giovanni Bosco, whose values are responsibility, open communication and the feeling of being at home, both for children and workers.

A day at Don Bosco = a day of new opportunities

Volunteers are included in everyday life of the organization. Volunteers are preparing and developing activities as well as creating new programs within a team of professionals, Dutch and other international volunteers. Together we also make sure the place is safe and welcoming for everybody (for example: we do the dishes, clean the tables...)

During the school period we start the day with our lunch service: 80 children from a nearby located school spend their lunchbreak at our youth center.



The volunteer takes care of preparing lunch, setting the rooms and organizing different leisure activities such as football, dodgeball and handcrafts in order to offer the children a safe, welcoming, learning and meaningful social experience. This is a good time for volunteers to test their pedagogical and didactical skills. After having a short evaluation we start to prepare for the afternoon activities. Every day of the week Don Bosco offers different activities for all types of target groups. For example an educational playtime afternoon, a sports club for primary school kids, cooking workshops, language support through playing for children, sport for adults with disabilities, gardening, handcrafts for elderly.

In the school vacations we are focusing on holiday activities for the children ages 4 till 16. Volunteers will be involved in all of the activities: full day programs with up to 150 different children a day. There is an immeasurable variety of activities (sports, big games, crafts, theater...); a volunteer will have many opportunities to learn a lot of different skills and will be able to share their own talents and values many times during the volunteering experience.

Practical arrangements

Participants will live in a flat/house with one other volunteer. Each has their own room and they share the kitchen, bathroom and living room. Each participant will receive the food allowance and pocket money each month and a bike as a main form of transportation. The youth center is located approx. 10 min from the house.

Trainings and support

We will provide different workshops throughout the experience to make sure every individual is confident and comfortable in working at Don Bosco Rijswijk. For example: how to organize games, how to work as a professional youth worker, how to maintain boundaries and healthy relationships, how to animate...

We offer extra support for learning Dutch with inhouse language course. We value good communication and spend a lot of time and effort to organize activities which promote team building and multicultural learning under the roof of Don Bosco organizations mission: to offer home, playground, learning and spiritual place to each young person.

Profile of the participant

For the project in Rijswijk we keep the background of the volunteer candidates as open as possible so that all young people (age 18-30), especially unemployed and with fewer opportunities (social and economic difficulties) could easily take part in this project.

Volunteers are expected to work with other team members to carry out the program. Speaking and understanding a basic level of English is required. We would like to welcome people who are motivated to work with children and peers. This might help you decide: https://europa.eu/youth/go-abroad/volunteering/how-choose-good-volunteering-opportunity_en



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Practical Arrangements

Application process is open! Please follow these steps of our application process:

1. Introduce yourself in the motivation letter and CV by sending an email to: spela@donboscorijswijk.nl
Register in the European youth portal (https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en)
2. You will receive an email with the link to the application form (google forms). Fill in the application form in English.
3. Motivation letter, CV and application form conclude the 1st phase of the selection process.
4. Expect an email with the results of the selection and possible invitation for a video call.

How to find a sending organization

Please keep in mind that you will need a sending organization if you will be picked as a volunteer. Start to contact organizations soon, so they can help you with writing your applications. You can search for organizations in your town or country [here](#).