

WORKCAMPS RECCOMENDED FOR SENIRO VOLUNTEERS IN ESTONIA SUMMER 2010

CODE	NAME	TYPE	DATES	VOLS	FEE		
EST 03	RISTITEE FARM	ENVI	07.06 - 19.06	5			
EST 04	DOWN TOWN KIDS I	KIDS/ TEACH	13.06 - 27.06	8			
EST 08	KOESTI WATERMILL I	MANU	05.07 - 17.07	10			
EST 10	IMASTU	DISA/ KIDS	06.07 - 31.07	5			
EST 13	DOWN TOWN ENG	KIDS/ TEACH	22.07 - 06.08	8			
EST 14	KOESTI WATERMILL II	MANU	26.07 - 07.08	10			
EST 15	MAIDLA	KIDS/ MANU	26.07 - 07.08	8			
EST 18	DOWN TOWN KIDS II	KIDS/ TEACH	06.08 - 21.08	8			
EST 22	FAMILY CAMP	MANU/ FAM	16.08 - 29.08	16	60		

EST 03 RISTITEE FARM HIUMAA 07.06 - 19.06 ENVI 5 vols

Project

Hiumaa according to the Nordic sagas emerged from the Baltic Sea as a small islet more than 10,000 years ago. The island of Hiumaa was first mentioned in historical documents as a deserted island called Dageida in 1228. The first inhabitants settled down at the end of the 13th century. Hiumaa now is the second biggest island of Estonia: its area is 965 sq. km, population around 12 000. It has many historical and nature sights, and there are kind people known for their hospitality and good sense of humor. Ristitee farm is situated on the small island Kassari (19 sq. km) which is linked to Hiumaa. The farm has about 40 horses and it specializes in eco-tourism in Kassari and horse riding for tourists. Indeed the area provides a lot of possibilities for this - with its beautiful sand dunes, pine woods and the high coastal junipers Kassari Island is ideal for hiking, picnics, camping, sunbathing and swimming. Kaina Bay between Kassari and Kaina and the numerous islets form a bird sanctuary with 70 different species - ideal place for bird watchers and nature lovers. The idea of the camp is to assist the protection of one of the environmental objects - coastal meadows, which are unique in Europe. Give hand to Kassari people and have the great chance to experience everyday Estonian country life on the beautiful island of Hiumaa!

Work

Volunteers will be mainly working on preserving NATURA areas, e.g. coastal meadows. This work will include cleaning and tidying up, cutting unwanted grass and bushes, deleting plants not typical for the area. This is an outdoors work in the very wet area. Another work will be to remove rusted wire left from the Soviet period in many places around the island. The working day is 6 -7 hours. One day will be free.

Accommodation

In the separate house on the sleeping mats. Volunteers have to bring sleeping bags. Toilet, hot water, sauna is available. Volunteers will have to prepare meals themselves with the help of locals.

Location

Hiumaa Island lies in the Baltic Sea west of Tallinn, 22 km from the mainland. Ristitee farm is situated on the seashore near to the forest. The nearest village is 10km away.

Terminal

Airport, harbor, bus & train station in Tallinn; bus to Rohukula and ferry to Hiiumaa.

Special requirements

This camp is not suitable for volunteers allergic to different plants or hay. Note: it is hard to provide diverse vegetarian food on the island. Volunteers have to bring rubber boots and waterproof clothes.

Leisure time

Sunbathing and swimming, hiking, birds watching, etc. Very good camp for nature lovers! Excursion around the island is planned. Since Ristitee is also a horse farm you will certainly get the possibility to exercise horse riding.

EST 04	DOWN TOWN KIDS I	TALLINN	13.06 - 27.06	KIDS/ TEACH	8 vols
EST 18	DOWN TOWN KIDS II	TALLINN	06.08 - 21.08	KIDS/ TEACH	8 vols

Project

This project is organized for local children by the non-profit educational association "Alternative Language Programs Satellite" within its annual activities on multicultural issues for kids. The project's aim is to introduce the diversity of world cultures to children and provide them with good practices in intercultural communication using the learning-by-doing method and organizing alternative English language practice. The project gets the kids of 10 to 13 years old familiar with customs and traditions of the countries from all over the world and encourages them to develop their cross-cultural thinking and tolerance. The common theme for all Down-Town camps 2010 is CARE - teenagers will try to answer the questions like: What do youngsters really care of today? What is there in their minds? Do they care of anything at all? The shift KIDS I is called CARAVAN, and the key word is CIVILIZATION. The shift KIDS II is called ENIGMA, and the key word is EVOLUTION.

Work

Activating kids in the city camp and providing them with cross-cultural learning experience. Volunteers will do it through informal methods of teaching and working in small group techniques. Among the activities to be held by team of volunteers are playing the games and music popular the countries the volunteers represent; training kids to perform pieces of amateur drama; preparing festivals, intellectual and sport games as well as discussions and excursions round the places of interest; actions for peace and nature protection; leading and supporting kids in their work on the team projects within themes like "Healthy body, healthy spirit", "Good habits", "My small home in the big world", "War and peace", etc. Volunteers together with a local project coordinator are responsible for the day activities in the camp. **The work can be pretty hard, involving long working hours, requiring high commitment and responsibility.** You will stay with kids 10.00 – 17.00 and spend another hour to prepare next day activities. In the course of camp there is one day off and at least one day of travel outside Tallinn together with kids. Before the city camp activities start there will be training in camp methodology and preparation. Most of kids are Russian-speaking children from minority group of Tallinn. The total number of kids is 25 to 40. Volunteers will work in pairs facilitating and leading a smaller group of 10 - 12 kids during the day. The camp activities will take place in a learning centre situated in the centre of the city.

Accommodation

In the furnished apartments in the Mustamäe residential area of Tallinn, about 20 min by trolley-bus to the city centre. Travel cards will be provided. Volunteers will stay in the shared rooms: 2-4 persons in one room. You do NOT need a sleeping bag. Volunteers will cook and have their breakfasts at the place of accommodation; lunches will be organized for the whole camp in the city.

Location

Camp will take place in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. More information on www.tallinn.ee

Special requirements

You have to be really **motivated** to work with kids. Experience in work with children is an advantage. **Your ideas** and actual **preparation** to do the activities for kids are essential. We ask you to bring some materials like postcards, posters, maps, symbols of your country, music or popular games etc which are typical for your country or region which can be used by you during your country presentation. We expect active volunteers with a good knowledge of history and culture of their country as well as with an ability and wish to present it to others in a creative way. A good level of **English** is required. **The min age of volunteers is 20. Motivation letter** is required

EST 08	KOESTI WATERMILL I	VILJANDI	05.07 – 17.07	MANU	10 vol
EST 14	KOESTI WATERMILL II	VILJANDI	26.07 – 07.08	MANU	10 vol

Project

The aim of this camp is to help renovation of the historical watermill Koesti. This watermill dating from the end of 18th century is an important object of heritage for the local community. The oldest part of the building existing at present was built in the second half of 19th century. In 1930 the watermill was made two-storied and on the river side the engineering for producing electric power was built. After the Second World War several changes have been made there. Today association managing the watermill put a lot of effort into developing it into a hydroelectric plant, which started to give first energy last year. And this is a very important step for the local community which goes along with the general plan to raise production use of energy from alternative sources in Estonia. At present such generating alternative energy projects have not been developed in Estonia yet to the noticeable extend, therefore Koesti Watermill is an important initiative which has to be supported.

Work

The work will involve mainly cleaning up/ recovering of the hydro power station canal and the banks of Koesti creek. This means **quite physical work in the water** removing mud, stones, branches of trees, etc. Volunteers have to bring rubber boots. Also there may be some clearing up the green areas around the mill. Volunteers will be working 7-8 hours per day and 5 days a week under the supervision of local technical leader.

Accommodation

The accommodation facilities will be quite simple: you will stay in the mill house in camp beds. Please bring your own sleeping bag! Please note that the shower is a self-made “summer shower” with the warmed water though. And there is dry toilet only. But you will have a good chance to try Estonian sauna on weekend! Traditional local food will be prepared by hosts, volunteers will be asked to help cleaning and washing up. Possibility of making own food is limited.

Location

The project is located at the border of Viljandi, a town situated in South Estonia on Sakala Upland. Town of Viljandi with its 20,000 inhabitants is an independent unit of local authority and the centre of the county. As a culture town it is well known for its valued Culture Academy, Ugala Drama Theatre and the famous international Folk Music Festival (<http://www.folk.ee>) held yearly at the end of July. Viljandi lies 160 km from Tallinn, 98 km from Parnu and 80 km from Tartu. More information about Viljandi on www.viljandi.ee/?id=506 and www.viljandimaa.ee/turismiinfo/?lg=eng

Terminal

Airport, harbour, bus & train station in Tallinn; bus and train to Viljandi.

Special requirements

This camp is not suitable for volunteers allergic to different plants or hay. Be prepared for physical work. Please note rather simple washing facilities in this camp. You have to bring your sleeping bag, working clothes and rubber boots. Volunteers older than 35 are particularly welcome!

Leisure time

There are a lot of possibilities for leisure time activities as camp will take place in the town where one can find attractions for all tastes: sightseeing and museums, festivals, concerts, live music, pubs, etc. You can also spend time at Viljandi Lake and go swimming. Or simply stay at the mill having bonfire, barbeque and sauna with locals.

EST 10 IMASTU TAPA 06.07 - 31.07 KIDS/ DISA 5 vols

Project

Imastu is an institution for mentally handicapped children and youngsters. It caters for over 100 kids and young adults aged 7 to 30 with severe mental and genetic deceases. Most of them are orphans. Youngsters are divided in to 5 family groups where they live under supervision of staff. Children attend a special school arranged for them in Imastu. Since 1994 Imastu has been hosting international workcamps in summer and since 1999 - long-term volunteers to assist staff with daily work, bringing new ideas and approaches to the daily routine. In summer the volunteers are particularly needed to support staff and assist work with kids, especially in July-August when it is possible to offer more diverse outdoor activities for kids.

Work

Looking after the children, helping staff in teaching them basic skills, feeding children, playing with them, arranging their outings, assisting in all other required activities. Each volunteer will work in the own family group. Volunteers will work under supervision and with assistance of local staff 30-35 hours a week, 2 days a week are free.

Accommodation

In the Institution in 2-bedded rooms. Beds and linens are provided. You do not have to bring sleeping bag. Shower and toilet is in the corridor, shared with the staff. You will eat together with the staff in local canteen or in your family groups. Possibility to make own food is limited.

Location

Imastu is a very tiny village. It lies 90km east from Tallinn and 25 km west from Rakvere, administrative center of the area. The nearest city is Tapa (3km), large railway junction with about 10 000 inhabitants. Useful links: www.tapa.ee and www.visitestonia.com for general information about the country.

Terminal

Airport, harbour, bus & train stations in Tallinn; train or bus to Tapa.

Special requirements

You have to be **really motivated and committed** to the work with physically and mentally disabled children. Some previous experience or special knowledge is an advantage. Although English is a camp language, some knowledge of Estonian or Russian will make communication with locals easier.

Leisure time

Imastu is laying in a picturesque landscape: fields, forests, lakes and unspoiled nature. It is the ideal region for hiking and cycling tours. There are good possibilities for horse riding and fishing right in Imastu. Excursions to places of interest in Tallinn, Rakvere (est.1226), Lahemaa National Park as well as trips to the seaside (30km from Imastu) are foreseen.

EST 15 MAIDLA RAPLA 26.07- 07.08 MANU/ KIDS 8 int+12 locals

Project

Maidla is an orphanage, which was established over 50 year ago on the site of the old German manor house. It caters for around 30 youngsters aged 3 to 18. Children attend school, gymnasium or professional school in the county. The aim of the institution is to take care of children, create good conditions for their living there, ensure necessary medical and psychological treatment, organize free time activities for them and finally, prepare them for the independent life in future.

Besides the manor houses and the park, which occupies 3 ha, Maidla has also a garden, which supplies institution with vegetables. Naturally there is a lot of practical work to do there, especially in summer, and assistance of international volunteers will be appreciated.

Although many children will be away for the whole period of camp living in the "support families", those staying in Maidla will join volunteers for work and leisure.

Work

Maintenance works in the park and on the territory of institution, preparing and piling up fire woods for heating in winter and other odd jobs outdoors and indoors. Another important task of the camp will be to activate youngsters of Maidla involving them to the practical work, running a leisure time program for them, organizing games and sport activities, introducing volunteers' home countries and cultures, providing practice of English language, etc. There will be around 12 young people aged 8 to 17 in Maidla at the time of the camp.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay in the separate house, which is normally occupied by the eldest children. They will have 2-3 bedded rooms, shower, toilet, washing machine. Sauna is available as well. Meals will be prepared by volunteers themselves in the institution's kitchen from the food provided by the institution.

Location

Maidla is a very tiny village, which lies 10 km east from Rapla, an administrative centre of the county with 7 000 inhabitants. Distance from Tallinn is about 60 km. Area around has a lot of small rivers and lakes

as well as forests with wild life – nice place for hikes, swimming, enjoying nature. More information on www.raplamaa.ee

Terminal

Airport, harbour, bus & train stations in Tallinn; bus & train to Rapla; bus to Maidla.

Special requirements

Please bring working clothes and gloves. It would be very helpful if you could bring games, songs popular in your countries, ideas for activities with children, anything you can use for work with kids and teenagers of Maidla. Your previous experience in work with kids is an advantage. English is the camp language.

Leisure time

Various joined activities with Maidla youngsters. Hikes in the forest. Sport activities using institution's facilities. Excursions and visits to the places of interest in the area. Trip to the seaside in Parnu can be organised. It is possible to visit other workcamps taking place the same time in this region. Besides during this time of year, there will be various cultural events in Rapla and neighbour villages, like Marjamaa Folk Festival, which will be possible to attend.

EST 22 Family Camp at Kiidi Farm 16.08 - 29.08 MANU/ FAMILY 8 adults + 8 kids

Project

EstYES promotes camps where parents and children can participate together. The idea is to create a sort of temporary community where adults and children can share the idea of voluntary activity for the benefit of rural area. The schedule of the camp allows adults to act as volunteers like in any other voluntary camp (4-5 hours a day for practical tasks). Meanwhile children "work" as well, in the sense that they take part in the activities helping parents and sharing easy tasks with them. Local organisers supported by parents care about the children during the working activities, providing snacks, proposing games, etc. In the daily free time and in the days off group excursions will be suggested by the local hosts. Parents can join the camp in pair or alone with their children. The age of children is 3 to 13. Some English is necessary for parents in order to communicate among them and with the campleader. This camp follows positive experience of last two years.

Venue

It is a long tradition for EstYES to organize international workcamps in co-operation with Kiidi Farm located in the Voru County in the South of Estonia. With the support of the state and local authorities the eco- and farm sustainable tourism has been developed in this area. Besides promoting the environmental tourism, this initiative supports rural development, which is an important issue for Estonia. Estonian Association of Farm Tourism has launched several projects, and Kiidi Farm, where the camp takes place, is one of them. It is run by the large Piho family with 8 kids of different age. More information on Kiidi Farm is on site www.kiidi.ee

Location

The charm of Haanja Uplands in South Estonia lies in its lovely hilly landscape, winding roads and numerous lakes. Most of its ancient villages, special dialect, handicraft, and customs have been preserved until today. The whole area, called Vorumaa, is an area of outstanding beauty. It is famous for its diverse and very well preserved nature. Untouched forests with wildlife, deep valleys, hills, 170 small lakes with extremely clean water, rivers with caves in the steep banks - you can find everything there. Kiidi Farm is situated 15 km south of Voru, capital of the County, which has a population of 17 000 people and lies about 250 km south-east of Tallinn, very close to the Latvian and Russian borders. The closest village to Kiidi Farm is Rouge (3km) with a population of less than 1000 people. More information about Estonia www.visitestonia.com; South-Estonia www.werro.ee, www.southeastonia.info

Work

Various works in the forest: cutting unwanted trees and bushes, burning old tree branches and brushwood, preparing firewood for heating the farm; also diverse odd jobs in the farm buildings as well as general household work. Most of the work will be outdoors. There can be also some light maintaining works indoors if weather is too rainy. The work will be usually 4-5 hours a day, the rest of the time will be spend to get acquainted with the area, its natural and historical sites as well as with local people. Some local families will join the camp for work and leisure.

Accommodation:

In the farmhouse in 2-4-bedded rooms. WC, shower, hot water, & sauna are available. Hosts will prepare meals themselves, however, participants will be asked to help out in the kitchen.

Terminal

Airport, harbour, bus or train station in Tallinn; bus to Voru.

Special requirements

The camp is open for families with their children aged 3 to 13. Parents can come in pairs or alone. English is the camp language.

Leisure time

There are many possibilities for leisure time, especially for those who love nature: acquaintance with nature sights in the area, hiking, swimming, etc. Excursions to the historical sites of the County of Voru are planned as well. Volunteers will have a very good chance to get in close contact with the local people, experience local traditions and learn some customs like hot Estonian sauna!

Participation fee

As EstYES does not receive funds to support your participation in this camp neither from the state nor from private sponcors, you are asked to contribute towards cost of board and lodging, local transport, leisure time program, etc. The fee has to be paid by volunteers upon arrival to the camp and it is **60 Euro for every adult and every child.**