

## Volunteer projects in Germany

The volunteers service is a social commitment project to benefit society and people in need. Volunteers are working in the non-for-profit sector in assisting staff members. This means: Playing with children, reading newspapers to senior citizens, looking after biotopes or helping young people appreciate a museum or theatre - the range of voluntary assignments is as varied as German society itself. Volunteers do not need any specialist training to become a volunteer.

Volunteers are required to work full time. According to German standards this refers to 40 hours per week, usually split into eight hours per day, five days a week. Volunteers play an active part in their work environment and contribute to the daily work routine of the organization.

### Assisting mentally and physically disabled people

In workshops, people with disabilities (ages 19 years and older) get a chance to experience the “work life”, they collaborate in the process of making decorations, furniture, and other things that will later get sold. The volunteers will accompany and assist some of the people working here; that means help them in their work tasks, supervise and counsel them; but also may help them to eat and clean themselves. Participants can help free time activities and propose own projects like sports or music.



In schools and kindergartens, the volunteers will have similar responsibilities as in the workshop. They will accompany children, between 6 and 18 years old, and assist them in what they need, like changing clothes for gym class, support those in wheelchairs, help them eat or by changing their diapers. Participants are always welcome to share ideas!



### School and boarding schools

In schools (ages 10-20) the volunteers will assist school staff. Volunteers can often get involved in language classes, free time activities and other projects. Depending on the volunteer's abilities, he or she could engage in many other activities like sports or arts. In boarding schools the volunteers might also help students with their school work. They might also organize free time activities. The participant will live in the school and sometimes supervise and counsel the students in the evening or on weekends. The volunteer may propose new ideas and get involved in various creative or sportive projects. Please mind: You will not be working as a teacher. You will not be fully involved in running classrooms. Depending on your level of German, you might be asked to do garden work and kitchen work.

### Assistance in the youth work sector

In the youth work sector young people find help when they are in need of it. One example could be that young people can't live with their families anymore or they come as unaccompanied minor refugees to Germany. Furthermore youth work includes projects that offer free time activities for young people such as spending time together, playing games and making excursions together.



The volunteers sometimes live in the same houses as the adolescents, sometimes they stay in their own flat. Tasks for the volunteers are spending the afternoons with the young people, organizing free time activities and participating in them, having meals with the youngsters and helping them with their homework. According to your level of German, you might be asked to do garden work, kitchen work or do the shopping.