



## Kungsbacka

### Infopack for volunteering in the municipality of Kungsbacka 2017



Kungsbacka is the most northern municipality in the county of Halland situated along the southwest coast of Sweden. It borders to Varberg in the south, Gothenburg in the north, and the ocean of Kattegatt in the west. It is a nice mix of an idyllic smalltown with quite a lot of modern buildings as well as remainings from the old town, and rural area and pretty much wild nature, forests and lakes.

The commuter train to Gothenburg takes around twenty minutes, and if you want to travel south, you reach Copenhagen in Denmark by train in about three and a half hour.

The citizens of Kungsbacka, around 80 000 of them, are mostly situated on the countryside around the city, but around 20 000 of them remains living within the city borders. The country side is vast to cover and we divide it in the center region, the west and the south concerning our work. The placement for volunteering is in the city center, with lots and lots of opportunities to move around and visit any of the many youth centers and facilities we possess within our unit.



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### Volunteering learning possibilities within the G.I.V.E. project:

As your sending organization quotes; **“The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.”** Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

These are beautiful words, in which we not only trust and believe in, but also have in mind from a working perspective, which also includes the convention of childrens right.

Every year we manifest our different kind of work concerning human rights through our festival **QueerUp**. It is a wide spread **festival** during a few days from rainbow flags decorating the inner city and the highway exits to **workshops** in the schools, interesting lectures, **concerts** and photo exhibitions and much much more. We dare you to come and put your own mark and **contribute** to this festival.

We have our own ”pipeline” from the youngsters direct to the city council. Twice a year we have the campaign **”Barbro”**. A **democracy** tool spread by us in the schools where we **educate** all 8th graders in the convention of childrens rights and democracy and speak of the **possibilities** you have as young in Kungsbacka to actually **influence** your direct **future**. The youngsters makes suggestions for **improvements** in the city and after a time of voting the ideas gained most votes (normally five or six of them) gathers for a council with the opportunity to meet your **local** politicians from the city council and **argue** for your ideas. So far this has resulted in a new gymnasium for the gymnastics and parkour associations, an engine hall for the motor interested youngsters and lots and lots of artificial turf pitches throughout the county. We an assure you, **you will work** with this also, one way or another.

We work with the noble art of **informal learning** and when on a local or regional level we use the **ELD** method, **experience, learning, description**, as a recognition of what the youngsters learned during planning, performing and evaluating their activities. You will also get to know this method, but even more so working closer with the **Youthpass** as your tool.

Among other thing we have our skating facility, we are about to start a bigger project concerning **graffiti** decoration of the earlier mentioned gymnasium, there is a **recording studio**, an **art studio**, **media** rooms and a **dance** studio situated in our centers in the city. In the south they are dealing more with **outdoor pedagogics** and in the west they know their way with **parkour**.



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Canoeing children at our summer camp site -Sundsjön



Another view of the camp site, during a youth exchange 2014, camp fire at night.



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## What can you expect from us?

Working as a youth consultant, or volunteering within our space in Kungsbacka, is a diverse mix of many kind of professions from solving technical issues and build stages, act securitywise on concerts, making applications and educate students in democracy, you go fishing and your find yourself in a canoe in the middle of a lake while fishing up the primary school kids from the water or you simply have to amuse the children somehow while the rain is pouring down on the big sandy beach you have as the office of the day. We are **flexible** since we have the perhaps most flexible work in the city and that gives us no other option than to adapt. **We think you will too.**

You will have classes in the **Swedish language**, if you want to, we will be happy to send some documents to you for preparing a little. One negative thing (depending on how you see it) is that Swedish people simply adore speaking English when given the opportunity to do so. In your case we are sorry for this, but we will also try to make it easier for you to make your Swedish shine on an every day base.

We will provide you with a **working supervisor** at Elektronen. You will have regular meetings concerning your volunteership, but also have an everyday contact and work a lot together. We think this is necessary for us to keep a close contact and be able to explain our **working philosophy** considering our unit to work somewhat different than the average youth center in Sweden.

We are working closely or cooperating with other units in other municipalities on a regional level, and if they have volunteers we will encourage you to meet them. Perhaps our projects can combine in some way, or you can **promote** the international youth work and the **Erasmus +** programme together? We will also see to that you go to Stockholm and our NA's **On Arrival Training** and there you will definitely meet some more volunteers. Why not meet Stockholm as well? You will however get a second chance to do so on your **Midterm Evaluation!**

We will provide you with a social mentor, one or more, to support you to break the Swedish codes, show you were not to shop and how to post letters, finding what you seek and encourage you to have an active leisure time outside work. You will get a guided tour through parts of the beautiful county of Halland and its various sites to get a greater understanding of this unique part of the Swedish landscape and its habitants. To believe in the future, you have to have an understanding of why we are here today, and you only gain that by understaning the history that led us here.

You will work with our groups of youngsters and their variation of interests. You will also take part of our regular staff meetings (we will try to hold them in the English langugage) and planning of the mobilizing activities. Occassionally you will work weekends, which will be compensated with days off close to the weekend. We will shamelessly use you to take an active part of the promotion for the Erasmus + programme and also we will bring you to the many schools in Kungsbacka where you will help us to promote an active citizenship and add your tribute to our democracy educations. You will be here fore 12 months and as our first 12-month volunteer ever, you will have an active part in our annual year planning – the "yearwheel".



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### What would we like to expect from you?

We assume you speak native Portuguese, are at least 18 years old and that you are curious on your fellow humans. You are not afraid to learn new things, and the more you step out of your "convenience box", the more you will learn.

You will realize that we are a unit of 27 (...ish) youth consultants with many variations in our professions, social workers, drama pedagogues, ethnologists and youth workers and health educators. Some of these will drag you everywhere to help them or because they think you might be interested in their job in particular. **It is important before you say "Yes" to anything that you will check this up schedule wise first. If you feel the slightest insecure about it, talk to your supervisor.** Otherwise it is easy to work way too many hours for volunteering.

We expect you to have the ability to say "Well done" or "Good job" to youngsters accomplished what they planned. We believe in positive encouragement, and that goes for the staff as well. You will be hearing that too.

We assume you might have an interest that you want to share with us and our participants. If you do not, feel free to adopt an interest here. Leisure time is our speciality!

We would like to know everything about where you come from, language, culture, traditions, weather, politics, and we promise you will gain a lot of knowledge about Scandinavia and of course, Sweden in particular.

You will live in Sweden, it is dark six months of the year, it will get us depressed, if it is not dark, it will most likely rain, which is also kind of depressive. We would like you to bring warm clothes and a big smile even for days (or months) with bad weather. As a compensation we can give you some brilliant outdoor activities during the summer months that you cannot get anywhere else in the world, almost, and a sun that do not set at all during the summer months. Some former volunteers dared to travel to the northern part of Sweden to expose themselves for the midnight sun, and they actually lived to tell the tales of mosquitos big enough to kill with shotguns. There is also possible to go there during the late winter months (february/march) to take a closer look at Aurora Borealis, the northern light. Yes, it will be cold!

### Necessary info

You will probably stay in a private room in an apartment. It is of importance that we walk through the household rules and that you understand them concerning cleaning, possible hours where it should be quiet, the laundry possibilities and how the kitchen works etc. Of course you do this! If you live in a room of your own at the local college (where there defenitely are more volunteers, however not from the Erasmus+ programme) there are other rules to be concerned with and you will also have an extra mentor situated at the college. We will help you.

You will have a public transportation card, and when moving in work between facilities in Kungsbacka you are able to lend a bike. If you have a drivers license, you can also take one of our



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unit buses. You will be as insured as the rest of us, but **as a volunteer you are not allowed to drive participants**, only colleagues and equipment.

If you bring a cellphone we will provide you with a Swedish card that is refillable. We expect you to be reachable by phone during working hours. You will get a municipal e-mail adress. We have staff meetings each week, besides that most of our conversations on the unit goes by e-mail.

Pocket- and foodmoney will be provided once a month. Swedish banks hate people without a personal number, and even volunteers that actually have gotten such, have been denied bank accounts, so your money will most likely be handed out in cash. We are sorry for this, but have no other solution for the moment.

You will be blogging, taking pictures and write through your whole project. If you do not have a camera or a smart phone with camera options, you can lend a camera from your working place Elektronen. It is of great importance to us that the project is documentet properly and visible.



Your new working place!



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Sound, and creations of it is very important at Elektronen!

If you think you can relate to the words in this document, feel free to apply and we look forward to our Skype interview. Do we meet in January?

Links

[www.ungkungsbacka.se](http://www.ungkungsbacka.se)

[www.kungsbacka.se](http://www.kungsbacka.se)

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/evskungsbacka/>

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