



DE HOGE RIELEN



## **ESC-project de Hoge Rielen 2023**

*5 Volunteers wanted - Period of maximum 11 months: from 26/01/2023 until 15/12/2023*

De Hoge Rielen is a youth center that has been hosting European volunteers since 2013. In 2023, we want to host 5 international volunteers at our domain for almost a year. Volunteers should be between 18 and 30 years old and are looking for a long term volunteering project under the organization of the European Solidarity Corps.



### **Description of the organisation**

De Hoge Rielen is a youth centre that offers quality accommodation (multiple buildings and camp grounds) to groups and individuals. De Hoge Rielen has a major asset: it's pure nature. Respect for the environment is very important here. As well as adventure, playing in the woods and educational, adventurous and sports activities. No one will ever have a dull moment here!

### **Project environment**

De Hoge Rielen was once a military domain. Today, freedom is the dominant force here. Whatever people want to do: we will do everything possible to boost creativity and stimulate initiatives of our guests.

Our forest is one of the largest children's and youth domains in Flanders, it's over 230 ha. It's a delightful destination for people with a youthful spirit. Each group has its own spot on the domain. Young people come to de Hoge Rielen for multiday group activities, a youth camp, with school, for welcome days or a training. The domain offers many possibilities such as sleeping accommodations, camping facilities and campfire places, nature to play and hike in, a theatre, a sports hall, meeting rooms and a restaurant.

De Hoge Rielen is located outside the small municipality of Kasterlee, in the province of Antwerp. Kasterlee is situated in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. Dutch will also be the main language used during the project.



## **ESC 2023 de Hoge Rielen: Volunteering opportunity for 5 volunteers – Long term**

### *Learning opportunities for the volunteer:*

- ♣ Getting to know the different aspects (organization, impact, partners...) of youth work in Belgium
- ♣ Learning how to work in a team (by setting up small scale projects together)
- ♣ Learning how to guide different youth groups and how to prepare activities and workshops
- ♣ Learning new communication skills
- ♣ Getting to know yourself better and increasing self-confidence
- ♣ Gaining experience in your specific field of expertise
- ♣ Expanding your network with connections all over Europe
- ♣ Getting more respect for (inter)cultural diversity and different people
- ♣ Building work experience in a non-formal learning context
- ♣ Learning to speak Dutch

### *The volunteer:*

- ♣ has a sense of responsibility
- ♣ has a flexible attitude
- ♣ has a great independence
- ♣ likes to work with youth groups
- ♣ likes to be outdoors, in nature
- ♣ has the ability to work independently
- ♣ is willing to learn
- ♣ is able and wants to take initiative



### *Role of the volunteer:*

- ♣ Increasing the interculturality in the organization
- ♣ Being himself/herself but open to other cultures, values and norms
- ♣ Giving new impulses and ideas
- ♣ Supporting the daily activities of the different services, as there are:
  - helping at the reception and informing groups about their stay
  - assisting in the technical service of the domain
  - guiding groups in activities and workshops
  - guiding the rope course and activities in the climbing forest
  - exploit the lending service
  - working at the bar in our summer program
  - supporting in different projects



*We educate each volunteer in all the different tasks. However, we are looking for some different profiles, with specific interests in some tasks on our domain. We want to get together a mixed team with whom we can differentiate in talents and competences in our project. In your motivation letter, you can let us know which focus would interest you the most.*

### ***Guiding workshops and activities (3 volunteers)***

You're most interested in leading the groups and guiding workshops and activities. We offer you an extensive training in our high ropes course ("klimbos"), which you will guide together with colleagues or other volunteers. You will help out in the educational service, with guiding activities and making preparations for them. We have a diverse offer of workshops going from teambuilding, survival, cooking with forest plants to working in the forest. We encourage you to learn Dutch to use while guiding activities. You like to work in a team and like to work with children and young people. You are not shy to talk to people and speak in front of a group. You will spend a lot of time outside and your interest in nature is very important.



### ***Reception & guest contacts (1 volunteer)***

Your focus will be on welcoming groups at the reception. You will help out the team of "onthaal" with preparing documents for arriving groups, helping with the mail, sorting out files. You will be a big help in the welcoming part of the domain. When groups leave, you handle the practical issues before they leave. You exploit the lending service and help groups with collecting materials. On busy days you can host groups at the restaurant, organising the flood, welcoming the groups and showing them where to go. We encourage you to learn Dutch to use when talking with guests and visitors. You know or are willing to learn how to work with different computer programs. You like to work structured and organised. You are not shy to talk to people and to take initiative.



### ***Communication (1 volunteer)***

You will help out the educational service with its communication tasks. You will create digital content and content for print. You take pictures of events, activities and other aspects on the domain and edit the pictures. You create content for social media and website and help with creative input. You will help in doing research for the magazine of de Hoge Rielen. You know -or are willing to learn- how to manage social media and are creative. You like to work in a team and to share your ideas with colleagues and other volunteers. Experience in working with photo- and video-editing programs (Canva, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, illustrator..) is a plus. You are motivated to learn Dutch since our main communication is in this language and you are not afraid to communicate with guests.



## **PRACTICAL ISSUES**

Volunteers live on the domain in 2 compact houses, near the reception. Each house has separate bedrooms, a shared bathroom, a kitchen and a living room. Meals are available in the restaurant. Budget is provided for shopping at the nearest supermarket. The volunteers receive pocket money, travel support and extra food allowance. Travel costs of the trip coming here and going home are covered. If applicable, visa costs will be paid by de Hoge Rielen. We provide any practical support: internet, laundry, a bicycle for transport. All basic facilities are foreseen.



## **How to apply?**

Send an e-mail to [educatie@dehogerielen.be](mailto:educatie@dehogerielen.be) before the 15<sup>th</sup> of November with your resume and motivation letter in which you tell us why you want to work at de Hoge Rielen and tell us more about yourself, your talents, competences and experiences. Also tell us which focus would interest you the most.

## **Selection procedure:**

A selection will be made based on your resume and motivation letter. Selected candidates will be invited to a first online interview to get to know each other better on Tuesday 22/11 or Thursday 24/11. A second interview round will be held shortly after, to have a better insight on your experiences and motivations.

## **More information?**

Check out our website:

<https://www.dehogerielen.be/en/meet-people/international/european-solidarity-corps/>

Have a look at the blog of previous ESC volunteers:

<https://evsdehogerielen.wordpress.com/>

Find inspiring stories told by our volunteers on de Hoge Rielen Instagram pages:

<https://www.instagram.com/dehogerielen/>