



INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMPS IN RUSSIA 2020



GENERAL INFO

SFERA is international social movement of support of voluntary initiatives. It was established in March 2007 by uniting the efforts of youth non-governmental organizations from different subjects of Russian Federation. The headquarter is situated in Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia. The aim of the organization is development and support of youth initiatives by providing young people with access to volunteering, regardless of nation, religion, social status and background. Nowadays, there are 6 people in staff of SFERA and more than 500 volunteers regularly participate in different activities.

The main SFERA activities are:

- international voluntary workcamps,
- ESC projects,
- educational activities for youngsters and organizations involved in social service,
- promotions campaigns of volunteering,
- charity and social services.

SFERA Movement is a member of Alliance of European Voluntary Organizations (Alliance) and a partner of Service Civil International (SCI). Since 2007 SFERA is one of the official multipliers of Erasmus + (Youth in Action programme) and ESC in Russia.

CONTACT DETAILS

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SPECIAL ASPECTS

DISTANCE

It makes no sense to point out, that Russia is a big country and it seems like it takes ages to get from one point to another. This summer we decided to show you different parts of our country and we have a few projects in distant places. Although, it's quite easy and not so expensive to get there. Firstly, we have a new low cost airline "Pobeda" where you can get really cheap tickets for domestic flights. Secondly, comfortable night trains are popular and wide spread in our country and one can get the cheapest tickets 45 days before the date of travel (moreover, railway service is generally cheaper than in Europe). So, don't be afraid of distances in Russia and be ready that "just 6 hours by train" is actually not a lot.

INVITATION PROCESS AND VISA

There are a lot of legends coming around visa process in Russian consulates. Although we believe that those legends are just made up and it's not so scary. Since the majority of foreigners need an entrance visa to come to Russia, it's recommended to apply not later than 1 month before the project. We provide official invitation letters from our organization for volunteers. Find more about visas in Appendix 1.

LANGUAGE

Please keep in mind that English is not wide spoken in Russia in general and it might be a bit challenging. Also signs are not always transliterated into latin letters.

INSURANCE

Unfortunately SFERA Movement does not provide medical insurance and it's highly recommended for volunteers to take out their own medical insurance and to take their own medicine that they use in their home country.

INVITATION LETTER DEPOSIT

In order to apply for Russian visa, some countries are required to have an invitation letter that is issued by the Russian Migration Service. It costs 800 RUR (~11 Eur). Unfortunately, due to last-minute cancellations we lose these money, as we receive these invitation, but the volunteers never arrive.

This is the reason we have to introduce Invitation letter deposit:

If you have a volunteer applying for a camp in Russia and the Russian Migration Service IL is needed, we would like you to charge him/her the equivalent of 800 rubles and keep it until the person is back from the camp. When (s)he is back, you return the deposit. In case of cancellation and when the IL is ready, you keep the money and give it to us on the next TM.

| CODE | NAME | LOCATION | DATES | TYPE | VOLS | NOTES |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|---|
| RU-SF-10.1 | Clean Games | St. Petersburg | 23.04 26.04 | ENVI/STUDY | 10 | E-visa to Saint-Petersburg for the period of up to 8 days. Volunteers are required to make their own "Clean games" action when they come back home. |
| RU-SF-7.1 | National Dialogue | Mozhga, Udmurt region | 01.07 17.07 | YOUTH/TEACH | 6 | 21+ age |
| RU-SF-7.2 | Tramplin | Kirov region | 05.07 16.07 | YOUTH/TEACH | 6 | |
| RU-SF-10.2 | Heart of the Taiga | Yugyd Va National Park, Inta | 15.07 29.07 | ENVI/MANU | 10 | M-6 F-4 Extra fee – 40 Euro. |
| RU-SF-10.3 | Students eco-raids and festival | To be confirmed (Leningrad region) | To be confirmed | ENVI/FEST | 10 | Dates and location to be confirmed later. Possibly will be ESC volunteering teams project. |
| RU-SF-10.4 | Siberian botanical garden | Tomsk | 15.08 24.08 | ENVI | 10 | |
| RU-SF-11.1 | Village adventures | Nizhny Novgorod region | 19.08 26.08 | EDU/SOCI | 5 | |

DATES: April 23-26
WORK: ENVI/STUDY
LOCATION: St. Petersburg

AGE: 18+
VOLS: 10
DURATION: 5 days

Spend 5 days in one of the most beautiful cities of Russia. Take part in seminar, know from the inside how to hold an ecological game and sign an agreement to hold your own Clean Game! During the camp volunteers will participate in the seminar, which aims at environmental problems, in particular pollution. Clean Games is a team-based trash clean-up competition. We help to keep local parks clean, something exciting to do over the weekend, it's a fun competition for the whole family, the best teams win a prize and everyone gets a free lunch.

STUDY PART AND WORK

What will we do?

- Teach participants about the consequences of pollution
- Involve more volunteers in the beautification of local parks
- Train new organizers on our unique methodology for cleaning trash

Seminar

We will tell you how to organize Clean Games from A to Z (methods, fundraising, PR, interaction with local community, interaction with sponsors and partners).

Holding a Game

Take part in the organization of the game. This game will be held later, on May 18, with the participation of other interested parties, during the spring ecological tournament.

Participate in City Quest

We will organize a cultural program for internship participants. You will get to know St. Petersburg with the city quest "Running City".

ACCOMMODATION

Location of the project is St. Petersburg, Resource center for volunteers and non-profit organizations of St. Petersburg «Headquarters».

Volunteers will stay in a cozy hotel/hostel in Saint Petersburg (exact location to be confirmed later). Showers and toilets will be provided.

Food: food will be served 3 times a day in the cafeteria. Volunteers will not cook themselves. Food for vegetarians can be provided.

REQUIREMENTS

It is mandatory to bring warm clothes for a full day's work on the street, the rest of the day will be spent indoors, it is desirable to have an umbrella.

Desirable requirements for participants: active young people with organizational skills (having experience in organizing any events, experience is welcome, but not required), environmentally oriented, interested in improving the environment and ready for action.

LEISURE TIME

Volunteers will be able to visit St. Petersburg and surroundings during weekends. There are a lot of opportunities for free time: museums, events, nightclubs and parks.

TERMINAL

St. Petersburg airport or train station. A detailed map of how to get to the place with all possible routes will be provided.

DATES: July 01-17

AGE: +21

WORK: YOUTH/TEACH

VOLS: 6

LOCATION: Mozhga, republic of Udmurtia

DURATION: 17 days

The camp will be directed at work with children in the summer camp of the city of Mozhga, Udmurt republic. The main topics are formation of interest in national harmony among the youth of the city of Mozhga, a sense of internationalism, ethics of interethnic communication: sympathy for the languages of different peoples, friendliness and respect for peers and adults of different nationalities, understanding and acceptance of ethnic identity, customs and traditions of different peoples, their functional significance; manifestation of an interested attitude to life.

WORK

The volunteers will

- Participate in entertainment and educational international and national events;
- Organize mobile folk games for children and participate in some of games;
- Also organize games for familiarity and unity, master classes, and promotions will be held.

ACCOMMODATION

The volunteers will be accommodated in school – on the territory of the cultural institution, which is located on the territory of city of Mozhga (4 people per room). The infrastructure at the school is good, warm showers, toilets, washing machine are included. Good internet connection is available.

Food: will be served 3 times a day in the cafeteria. You are welcome to bring traditional recipes and goodies from your home country. It is possible to organize meals for vegetarians.

LEISURE TIME

There are a lot of opportunities for free time: museums, events, nightclubs, outdoor activities. Some guided museum visits will be provided. Mozhga is situated close to a big city Kazan, where you can walk around the center and visit interesting events. Moreover, after or before the camp volunteers can visit the capital - Moscow city, visit a lot of historical or modern museums, summer festivals and architectural squares.

TERMINAL

Moscow or Kazan airport or train station, then on the train or bus to Mozhga, a minibus transfer to the camp will be arranged.

DATES: July 05-16
WORK: YOUTH/TEACH
LOCATION: Kirov region

AGE: 18+
VOLS: 6
DURATION: 12 days

The camp will be focused on work with children from the Kirov region and neighbouring regions aged 10-17 years in the summer tent camp in Kirov region. The purpose of the camp is to create conditions for teenagers to enrich their experience of independent organization of their leisure and life, and to become involved in tourism. The shift lasts 12 days. Tourism classes are the basis of the programme, they are held throughout the shift. The shift includes several master classes on tourism of different levels (rock climbing, water rafting, rope town, orienteering) and hiking.

But there are also interesting additions to the programme:

- one of the days of the shift is completely dedicated to the story-role-playing game on the ground;

- in the second half of the shift, children are divided according to their choice into non-tourist areas, where master classes are held from invited guests: sports, theatre, art direction and intercultural dialogue.

WORK

The volunteers will

- Help counsellors;
- Monitor and take care of children;
- Play games with children and immerse them in the language environment;
- Conduct master classes on the language and culture of their country every day.

ACCOMMODATION

The volunteers will be accommodated in tents in the camp (3 persons per tent). Bathrooms, athletic field are available. There are no settlements near 20 km. The presence of communication only when the mobile signal amplifier is working for about 6 hours a day.

Tents will be provided, but you **need to take sleeping bags and tour mats with you.**

Food: food will be served 3 times a day by military field kitchen. In soups and main courses, stew is added everywhere. The participation of vegetarians is possible the cook can divide food until adding meat stew.

LEISURE TIME

Would be a good idea to take playing cards, board games, musical instruments. There is a possibility for playing active games outside and doing workout. Also, after or before the camp, volunteers can visit the capital - Moscow or Kazan cities, which are located near to Kirov, visit a lot of historical or modern museums, summer festivals and architectural squares.

TERMINAL

Kazan or Moscow airport or train station, then by bus or train to Kirov. From Kirov to the camp site and back there will be organized transfer.

DATES: July 15-29
WORK: ENVI/MANU
LOCATION: Ygyd va National Reserve, Inta

AGE: 18+
VOLS: 10
M-6, F-4
DURATION: 14

The Republic of Komi is a federal subject of Russia. It is situated to the west of the Ural Mountains and very famous for its rich forests. Virgin Komi Forests is the first natural UNESCO World Heritage site in Russia and the largest expanse of virgin forests in Europe. The main aim of the workcamp is conservation and safeguard of the natural heritage. It's a great chance to see breathtaking landscapes, geological monuments, hike and explore Russia's largest natural park Yugyd Va. Volunteers will boat on the picturesque river in canoe on the territory of the national park "Yugyd Va".

WORK

Volunteers will be:

- Boating along the river;
- Exploring the Taiga forest;
- Marking touristic path with special signs;
- Easy physical work like cleaning bushes and path from natural garbage (old trees and branches);
- Cleaning of the territory from garbage, cleaning of waste bins, loading, unloading of garbage;
- Arrangement of parking places (canopies, tables, benches, bonfires) - installation of information stands on the route;
- Participation in forestry activities, loading and unloading;
- Catering for volunteer camp participants and park staff;
- Change of residence at environmental measures protected natural complexes and objects;
- Carrying out work on the identification of patrolling specially protected natural areas;
- Fire hazard monitoring.

ACCOMMODATION

As volunteers will follow a route along the river, they are going to stay in tents and wooden cabins (tourist camps have saunas with a possibility to wash and to wash clothes). Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be cooked in the specially organized field kitchen. Please keep in mind that there is no internet/mobile connection, running water, shops/supermarkets and be ready to stay in basic conditions. **Be ready to tolerate mosquitoes.**

REQUIREMENTS

Tourist mat, sleeping bag, hiking warm clothes, waterproof shoes, raincoat, personal hygiene means + medical insurance is necessary, special healthcare products – if needed.

LEISURE TIME

Would be a good idea to take playing cards, board games, musical instruments. There is a possibility for hiking, trekking, and enjoying the nature, free from modern technologies and far from civilization.

TERMINAL

Syktyvkar railway station or airport. From there you will have to take a plane or a train to Vuktyl where you will be picked up and taken to the starting point of your route.

EXTRA FEE: 40 EUR

Host organization doesn't have funding for food unfortunately. SFERA as coordinating organization is contributing half of the costs and we're kindly asking volunteers to provide 40 euro for the other half. 100% of the fee will go for food costs.

ECO-RAIDS AND FESTIVAL RU-SF-10.3

DATES: to be confirmed (August)

AGE: 18+

WORK: ENVI

VOLS: 10

LOCATION: to be confirmed (Leningrad region)

DURATION: 14 days

International volunteers will cooperate with students involved in environmental voluntary work in order to exchange with the best practices, develop solidarity and mutual understanding between young people from different countries. The project is organized by ITMO university in St. Petersburg. It's one of the leading universities in Russia in the field of information and photonic technologies. Together with high level educational work University provides students with opportunities for social life. There are student government, student ecological group and voluntary organization dealing with different social issues. This camp will be a new step in development of voluntary movement in the university.

WORK

Volunteers will be asked to implement the following tasks:

- Landscape project in the center (make flowerbeds, build a bonfire spot, etc.)
- Cleaning campfires in touristic places;
- Collecting and recycling garbage in the touristic area in the woods;
- Pines planting;
- Preparing an ecological festival, designing exhibition stands.

Eco-festival will be organized for citizens of Saint-Petersburg and gather around 300 people. The festival includes lectures on eco-friendly lifestyle, recycling, sports training in nature (acrobalance and yoga), workshops on making natural cosmetics and jewelry with their own hands etc.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will live in wooden houses in rooms for 2-4 persons. Showers and toilets will be in separate houses. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided in the canteen (Russian traditional food). Your dietary needs will be taken into consideration if communicated in advance. Alcohol is not allowed. Facilities: bed linen is provided, no WiFi, no washing machine, no lockers, no shops or supermarket in the camp.

LEISURE TIME

Volunteers will be able to visit St. Petersburg and surroundings during weekends. In the camp it's possible to play games, do any sport activities, go swimming and boating.

TERMINAL

St. Petersburg airport or railway station.

SIBERIAN BOTANICAL GARDEN RU-SF-10.4

DATES: August 15-24
WORK: ENVI/EDU
LOCATION: Tomsk

AGE: 18+
VOLS: 10
DURATION: 9 days

During the workcamp volunteers will work at the Siberian Botanical Garden that situated at the territory of Tomsk State University, which is located in the city center. The territory of the Botanical Garden is a beautiful and magical place. Garden now is a huge botanical science center. It was founded in 1880 on an area of 1.2 hectares and it is the first botanical institution in the Asian part of Russia. Collection funds include over 6,000 species, forms and varieties of living plants. Tomsk is a pretty small and cozy city that is considered to be one of the most popular and oldest cities in Western Siberia. Now it is a popular educational, research and innovative center, which has a very rich and interesting history and many places to visit (museums, theatres, parks).

WORK

The volunteers will

- take care of plants (plant transplantation, weeding, cutting of bushes)
- tidy the territory after cutting (grass and branches)
- assist with cultural and educational work: conducting excursions (as well as excursions in English), assistance in holding events
- help with the promotion of the events of the Botanical Garden on social media, preparation of photo and video materials, etc.

The important part of the workcamp will consist of filming video diaries and telling stories about volunteers' experience in the work camp. Volunteers also can prepare some educational activities about voluntary work for the volunteers of our Center "UNIVOL" (games, workshops, movie discussions, sharing your personal volunteering experience).

ACCOMMODATION

The volunteers will be accommodated in the student dormitory "Parus" (2-3 people per room). "Parus" is located on the territory of Tomsk State University campus near the lake, which in the winter is the largest ice rink in the city. The infrastructure at the dorm is good, warm showers are included. Food: food will be served 3 times a day in the cafeteria. It is also possible to cook at the dorm's kitchen. You will be provided with necessary kitchen equipment. You are welcome to bring traditional recipes and goodies from home country.

LEISURE TIME

There are a lot of opportunities for free time: museums, events, nightclubs, outdoor activities. Some guided museum visits will be provided. Tomsk is situated in a very heart of Siberia which also provides opportunities for traveling.

TERMINAL

Tomsk.

DATES: August 19-26

AGE: 18+

WORK: EDU/SOCI

VOLS: 5

LOCATION: Nizhny Novgorod region

DURATION: 8 days

The camp is organized by the regional centre of volunteering development. The main idea is to visit 5 remote towns and villages in the Nizhny Novgorod region, empower and inspire local youth, and exchange best social practices and ideas.

Volunteers are going to travel around the region, meeting local people, taking part in voluntary actions, organizing events for local youth, and documenting everything, in photos, videos, or blog articles.

During the 8 days of the camp, the volunteers will visit 5 different places, helping local communities. Intercultural exchange will be a very important part of the camp: volunteers are expected to prepare some presentations/national games/dances for the local teenagers and young adults. The local communities will be happy to provide an authentic Russian experience and show you warm hospitality.

WORK

Volunteers will be involved into:

- Taking part in local voluntary actions: cleanups, manual work, helping elderly people, working with kids
- Intercultural exchange: preparing presentations about your home countries, sharing your volunteering experiences
- Media: taking photos, videos, writing articles and interviews
- Fun, sightseeing, genuine experiences.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will be accommodated in guesthouses (or host families in rare cases of absence of public accommodation in some villages). Volunteers might need to bring sleeping bags with them. In some cases, food will be organized in canteens or cafes, and in other volunteers will cook for themselves in teams according to rota.

Travel from place to place will be via mini-bus. **You should be ready for long rides (4-5 hours by bus) several times during the camp. It's a travelling camp.**

REQUIREMENTS

English will be the working language for the camp, but any knowledge of Russian is more than welcome, as people usually don't speak English.

LEISURE TIME

Would be a good idea to take playing cards, board games, musical instruments. There is a possibility for knowing more about local history and culture of Russian villages, visiting museums and communicating with local communities. Also, after or before the camp, volunteers can visit the capital - Moscow city, which is located near with Nizhny Novgorod, visit a lot of historical or modern museums, summer festivals and architectural squares.

TERMINAL

Moscow or Nizhny Novgorod.

INVITATION PROCESS AND VISA

It is true that the visa process for Russian workcamps takes more time comparing to other countries. It depends on such institutions like the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Migration Service where we have to apply for official invitation letters for volunteers. The invitation process depends on the country you are from and that's why it takes different time.

FOR EU CITIZENS

Unfortunately from December 2016, some rules changed and for some cities and countries it's impossible to apply with the invitation letter from our organization. So we kindly ask a volunteer to contact the local Consulate or visa center and clarify if it possible for getting a humanitarian visa.

TIME

Invitation and visa process takes only 2-3 weeks for the post delivery of the invitation (in case the original invitation letter is needed) and a week for the visa issuing in Russian consulate (if a volunteer can apply with the invitation letter from our organization). If not, it's the same as for non-EU countries

DEADLINE

Deadline for applications to camps in Russia is 1 month before the start of each workcamp.

FOR NON-EU CITIZENS (and some particular EU countries)

TIME

It takes 1 month to issues the invitation letter from the Migration Service, and about a week for the visa issuing in Russian consulate

DEADLINE

Deadline for applications to camps in Russia is 9-10 weeks before the start of each workcamp.

AFTER YOU RECEIVED THE CONFIRMATION FOR THE CAMP

Please contact Russian consulate in your country, and find out if you need to have the original invitation letter or the fax copy will be enough, and also find out what are the other documents you need to get a visa. The type of your visa is **Humanitarian** or **Youth relationship**! And if it's necessary to make appointment to Russian consulate. So when you get an invitation you will be already prepared to apply for visa.