

EVS Opportunity: The School from Dąbrowa Białostocka



Hosting organization: The School from Dąbrowa Białostocka

City: Dąbrowa Białostocka

Period: usually from September/October to June

Topic: Education, youth leisure

Number of hosting volunteers: 2

How is the hosting organization like?

The Secondary School in Dąbrowa has around 60 open-minded, tolerant and friendly staff members. The school consists of a secondary school, a vocational school and one secondary school for adults. There are 21 classrooms, 2 computer rooms, the library and the multimedia computer center in the reading room (with Internet access). You can also find here the sports hall, the shooting range (air weapon), 2 billiard rooms, and the gym. Furthermore, the school has an access to the stadium. Nearby, there is a boarding house where approximately 50 pupils live.

The school has several active organizations for pupils: scout team, theatre group, volunteers' organization, school newspaper. The students can participate in projects such as:

- "Archimedes" - extra classes for pupils who are interested in science: maths, physics, biology, chemistry ;
- "The Academy of Crucial Competences" - extra classes for pupils who are interested in computer science and enterprise; the aim of the project is giving equal educational opportunities young people from rural areas ;
- "Białystok - good place for studying" - extra classes; the goal of the project is preparing third year pupils to the Matura exam and to study at university;
- "Grandma's delicacy of two cultures" - Young people from Poland and Lithuania prepared traditional Polish and Lithuanian dishes together, and then published a recipe book. The aim was creating mutual relationships between Polish and Lithuanian youngsters.



The students can develop their sports activities in handball, football, volleyball, boxing, taekwon-do, and shooting sections. There are customs-oriented and uniformed - oriented

(special classes for army preparation) classes in the school. The school cooperates with foreign schools: Gymnasium No 3 in Mołodeczno (Belarus) and Gymnasium in Kalwaria (Lithuania).

How's the area like?

The school is situated in a small town Dąbrowa Białostocka (≈ 6,000 inhabitants) in the N-E of Poland. It is a very calm and peaceful place located near the Biebrza river. It is a popular place for activities such cycling, canoeing, sailing especially in the summer. Theretown has a Culture Centre and a cinema. Volunteers can participate in informal education offered by non-government organizations (e.g. Youth Initiative Group - they support disabled people and local environment; Occupational Therapy Workshops -they work with disabled people, the scout team and with the Culture Centre). They can develop their sport activities (e.g. handball, football, volleyball). There is a boarding house in our school and there are prepared places for volunteers. They will live and work in the same place and they will receive three daily meals in the school canteen. However, the volunteers may also use the kitchen. The pupils and the volunteers may respect the following rules In the boarding school: no smoking and no alcohol or drugs consumption. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. A boarding tutor will stay with the pupils at night.

Main tasks of the volunteer:



- organize activities connected to school and youngsters who live in the boarding school (there is the sports hall, the gym, the shooting range, two computer rooms, the library, audio and video equipment

- working with local community: non-government organizations, Occupational Therapy Workshops, Youth Initiative Group, the Culture Centre, "Gamma" Foundation - it is devoted children, youth and elderly people

- collaborate with Cultural Centre
- organize language workshops
- work with pupils after obligatory classes
- take part in obligatory classes (supporting the teacher, preparing extra materials, organizing workshops).
- have polish lessons
- support a student who has an individual learning program, because of his health condition
- organising school events (International/Intercultural day, Volunteers' day)
- promoting EVS and Erasmus+ program through presentations, workshops etc..

Volunteers can propose their own activities, they can choose the topics, how they wish to implement them and the target they want to work with. The working team will be open to those kinds of initiatives and will decide with every volunteer a work plan that will suit him/her.

How should the volunteer be?

- creative and open for new activities, cultures and people
- eager to help other people
- Interested in education and in working with young people of different age groups
- ready to support teachers in their everyday routines and care
- basic knowledge in English and/or Russian
- ready to take over responsibility and able to complete the tasks
- someone who enjoys make new connections with people
- artistic or sport skills are not mandatory, but would be helpful
- Someone who has the desire to learn and improve and who will be open to cross the language and the cultural barriers.

A very important aspect regarding the volunteer's stay is their integration with the school and local community. Volunteers can participate in school life, get to know school community and think what kind of activities he/she wants to do.

