

Special Vocational School nr 16 in Białystok

☐ **School description**

The school is an institution educating young people with intellectual disabilities, couplings and autism on the basis of a decision on the need for special education. Due to the fact that a significant group of our students come from families with problems in fulfilling basic care and educational functions, the school provides them with broadly understood support, often exceeding the scope of duties, therefore, during their education and after graduation, students have a chance for use, and the school cooperates, among others:

- Center for Continuing Education,
- Local Advisory Center,
- Poviast Labor Office,
- Foundation "Professional activation"
- Foundation for active rehabilitation FAR - providing work for students, stays
- rehabilitation, vocational training,
- Department of professional activity in Krzyżewo - work and rehabilitation.,
- Podlaskie cereal plants - employment of students,
- in the activities of the Disabled Persons Support Coalition,
- "We for others" association - taking up jobs by graduates
- Schools Preparing for Work,
- Association for the professional activation of disabled people
- ADITUS,
- Occupational Therapy Workshops.

Thanks to the outings, students receive vital information that helps them decide on their future career path. They get to know the structure, the types of workshops, their rules and the type of work that is done in them. This is essential for their integration in various institutions.

☐ **Host organization**

The volunteers are assisted by two coordinators and 20 teachers. They are vocational teachers who are specialized in different areas, so thanks to this variety of specialists, they guarantee a high level in the learning process of the volunteers, including the organization of additional courses. Most of the staff speaks English fluently, some teachers are learning Spanish.

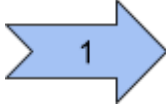
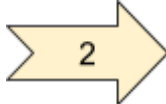
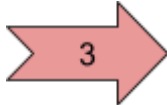
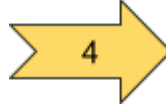
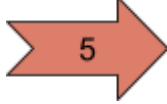
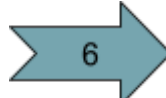
We would like to host volunteers who have some artistic skills (music, theater, art), and knowledge of people with special educational needs and are not afraid of challenges. The volunteers will gain experience in working with people with disabilities, will be able to develop their own ideas and projects, to verify its effectiveness and opportunities. The project will have a chance to develop creativity. The additional value will also be the opportunity to explore the wealth of our region, culture and language.

Our school has been a host organization for 6 years so far which we consider as very prestigious and distinctive. As a special education school we place importance on comprehensive education of our disabled students. We are aware that most of them will never have a chance of traveling and sightseeing foreign countries. Hosting volunteers from different European countries is an opportunity to broaden students' image of multicultural ideas of the world. Meeting people from different countries stimulates their development and encourages the learning process. The knowledge about the culture of other countries that they acquire from our volunteers is one that we teachers would not be able to convey in such detail.

The volunteer has the possibility of getting to know the Polish culture and tradition as well as learning the Polish language. Being in Bialystok the volunteer will have the opportunity of getting to know the city and surrounding tourist attractions. The volunteer has the possibility of understanding the methods of working with special needs students.

The Special School wants to offer the volunteers a variety and balance in different tasks. Volunteers will start with a short introduction period after which he/she can make a choice which project he/she prefers to focus on. The project will challenge the volunteer to take part in different activities during his/her volunteering period. The volunteer will get a lot of guidance in the beginning from the contact person and help from other volunteers in getting acquainted with the town and other young people living here.

- Main tasks and activities:

-  Supporting professions' lessons: a hairdresser, a cook, a car mechanic, a gardener, a hotel service worker, a carpenter and Pre-Vocational.
-  Supporting teachers in their daily work in: preparing meals, sewing, cleaning work, washing, gardening, computer use, and commercial art techniques.
-  Supporting individual classes with the students (on different levels of disability).
-  Supporting professional classes for students: studio room with a catering service consumer, dwelling unit (Service); gardening workshop with the area for growing and greenhouse; multimedia room to learn English; hairdressing studio; computer room, gym.
-  Supporting sports activities (gym, aerobics, swimming pool), theater (auditorium with stage), arts, IT classes, choir, sightseeing and tourism; compensatory classes; specialty classes.
-  Organizing and participating in school events: carnival balls, tours, bonfires, cinema, theater, meetings and social events.

☐ Previous volunteer experience

Last year we had the opportunity to host two volunteers. Sergio from Spain and Gamze from Turkey. They actively participated in the life of the school during the project. We began our cooperation by familiarizing the volunteers with the school community and the school infrastructure. After familiarizing themselves with the workplace, the students and the activities being carried out, the volunteers shared their observations, expectations and plans for their own initiatives.



They decided to take part in many of the activities, such as the following:

1. Participated in teaching activities by preparing interesting teaching aids on many occasions.
2. Participated in swimming pool activities.
3. Prepared cooking classes: they prepared traditional sweets from their countries, which we were able to cook and learn with them.
4. Co-organized parties and school events, including "Olympic Games", Tourist Song Review, European Days, Green Day, Earth Day, School Women's Day, Autism Awareness Day.
5. Provided assistance to students requiring special attention, assisted in self-service activities for lower-functioning students.
6. Conducted classes to introduce the history, culture and monuments of their country.
7. Participated in theater classes, museum lessons, art classes, excursions.



If you want to know a little more about our school, what we do, our previous volunteers, visit our facebook: [Wolontariusze ZS16 | Facebook](#)