

Mid Term Volunteering

Camp Leading

Lohra Castle and all other camp places
of Open Houses' 2016 programme

SOCI **OH-C01** 03.06. - 08.10.2016

SOCI **OH-C02** 03.06. - min. 16.07.2016

SOCI **OH-C03** 03.07. - min. 29.08.2016

SOCI **OH-C04** 14.08. - 08.10.2016



DURATION:

Between six weeks and four months,
in exceptional cases less or more

The beginning dates are fixed because of
the introduction course

ACCOMMODATION:

Depending on the camp place. Please have
a look at the camp place descriptions.

AGE:

at least 20

LANGUAGE:

very good level of English, basics of
German, other languages are helpful

WHAT TO BRING:

alarm bell, calculator, purse,
working gloves and strong shoes,
waterproof clothes, sleeping bag

NOTE:

**Basics of German,
Motivation letter and CV + photo required**

Organising and **leading** an international Workcamp is an interesting challenge for those who enjoy working together with young people from all over the world, which are willing to take over a big responsibility and who look forward to a great summer in Germany. The camp leader's role lies in building a bridge between the participants of the Workcamp, the organisation as well as the technical leaders who guide the practical part of the camp. S/he supports the group of volunteers from a social and intercultural point of view.

Open Houses is looking for people who are highly motivated and responsible, open minded and which already have some experiences in handling with other people. They should be able to speak English fluently and basics of German.

The main tasks are to **organise the social life** for all volunteers during the camp period. The leader will **welcome the volunteers** and make them familiar with the camp site. S/he will **prepare the daily schedule, indicating the working and eating times including breaks** and will furthermore be responsible **for organising the cleaning and cooking teams**, alternating within the group. The camp leader will **buy the food** for the volunteers, having an eye on the everyday changing cooking teams with their individual dishes. Additionally, s/he **organises leisure activities** after the working days and is welcome to prepare campfires, barbecues, games or other group activities. For the weekends the camp leader should be ready to **plan little trips to bigger cities or other activities**. A camp leader has **rarely time for personal things** during the Workcamp. S/he is always the person in charge of everything and contact person in any questions and needs of the volunteers. This should be clear to all applicants.

It is also important that the social leader stays in **close contact to the technical leaders**, who are organising the working groups and know which work has to be done. It is helpful to support the technical leaders by **taking over the responsibility for a working group**, if there are no other works to be done for the social leader. At some camps, especially in environmental camps, it can happen that the functions of social and technical leaders are running more together. So it is good to be prepared also to organise a little bit the working part.

The social leader is also responsible for **managing the deduction and finances** of the camp and to take care of the **documentation** – writing down what has been done, taking pictures and leading the evaluation of the camp. It is important to do this documentation with a certain care, so that the social leader which will lead the following camp will know what happened in the past and doesn't need to look for the same information or to do the same mistake a second time.

Project Description

The social camp leader has to be able to **work independently as well as in a team**. Since most of the camps are organised by several camp leaders (one or two social and one or more technical leaders) it is necessary to agree upon several issues in a team.

All in all, leading a camp means a **lot of work and empathy** as well as a lot of fun. Open Houses gives the camp leaders the opportunity to be **creative** and to take over **responsibility** for their own work. Of course, they will not be left alone in their role.

Before getting active as a camp leader s/he will take part in one camp as a volunteer, parallel will be time for the introduction as camp leader. It will be a good experience to be an "ordinary participant" for one or two weeks and to get to know the camp leader's tasks from the participants' point of view. After experiencing the atmosphere of the first camp and after Open Houses and the potential camp leader have gotten to know each other better, Open Houses will decide if s/he will be able to lead camps or not or if s/he would need an additional introduction time.

During the summer season Open Houses organises a lot of Workcamps in different places in Germany. Depending on the camp leader's interests and abilities Open Houses and the potential camp leader will decide together where s/he will lead camps. In general, Open Houses offers two possibilities: The volunteers can lead **several successive camps in one place** (at Lohra Castle, partly also at Klein Dammerow Manor) or can lead **different camps at various places**.

For each real camp leading week the volunteer gets 50 € pocket money. S/he does not have to pay for food and accommodation. The camp leader will receive the pocket money after the camp, when all the camp documents will be checked by the office staff and everything will be fine.