

## **ICYE Sweden's Work Placements Profile 2009-2010**

**ICYE – International Cultural Youth Exchange Programme: 12 months**

### **Types of projects available in Sweden**

The Swedish projects mainly involve social work, and there are also some ecological projects. In most cases, the ICYE projects are selected when we know the interests and preferences of the volunteers who are coming here, which mean that many of the projects change from year to year. Therefore it is not possible for us to give a detailed list of ICYE projects available 2009-2010, however, below follows some descriptions of possible types of projects. Please think about which types of projects you would be mostly interested in. To the greatest extent possible we let the volunteers know about their work placement and living situation before they arrive in Sweden.

It is important to know that **most projects are situated in the countryside or in small towns**, and in the southern half of Sweden. It is **most common for the volunteers to live in their work placements/projects**, rather than in host families.

- **Old people's home**

In Sweden it is very common that old people live in special homes or centres, where there is staff taking care of and helping them in their daily activities. Many of these homes have a lot of extra work suitable for a volunteer. Your work is likely to consist in assisting the old people with a range of activities and in being an extra helping hand for the ordinary staff. You may need to make a big effort in learning Swedish, since not all of the old people have knowledge in any other language.

- **Mentally or physically disabled**

There are many centres or schools for disabled people in Sweden who need assistance. Being disabled can include a range of different problems and therefore the type of work the volunteers will be doing may vary a lot. The volunteer assists the disabled in school and with their everyday activities. Some disabled live in a community village together with staff and they work together with handicrafts, farming etc.

- **Family homes for youth with social problems and treatment centres for people with drug addictions**

We have a project at family homes for youth with social problems. The youth are between 14-20 years old. It is based on a special pedagogical programme and collective living for troubled youth and the aim of the project is to prevent social exclusion, criminality and violence through a wide spectrum of pre-emptive social activities, education and consultation.

- **Ecological farming**

There are many farms in Sweden working for an ecologically sustainable society.. You may feed and take care of animals, or work with planting, harvesting and



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everything in between. Some of the ecological farms have broader activities such as courses for the public that you may take part of, and sometimes a bit of administrative work is included. In the ecological projects you will learn a lot about the philosophy and practical reality of ecology and environmental work.

- **Activity/conference centre**

We have two projects at activity centres, which host larger groups of people – often youth and non-profit organisations. The role of the volunteers is to be a helping hand at the centre when they host groups/guests. The work includes tasks such as working in the kitchen and preparation of the camps.

- **Educational projects**

When it comes to education we have cooperation mainly with folk high schools around Sweden. A folk high school is a school for adult students, where usually an alternative and more “non-formal education” approach is used. The students are usually from different backgrounds, and different educations are being offered – from general secondary school courses to thematic and specialised courses dealing with everything from rock music, to social work and ceramics. In these schools you will be supporting the school in different areas of activities, such as helping out in the cafeteria, sometimes selling fair trade articles, giving support in language classes, organising out-of-school activities for the students.



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## PROJECTS 2009-2010

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### PREFERENCE LIST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sending country: \_\_\_\_\_

Broadly speaking our volunteer projects can be categorised as presented below. However, the work placements offered change from year to year. Please NUMBER from 1-6 according to your priority (1 being your first priority):

- Working with elderly people at an old people's home.
- Working with mentally or physically disabled.
- Working in family homes for youth with social problems and treatment centres for people with drug addictions.
- Working with ecological farming.
- Working at an activity/conference centre.
- Working in a (folk high) school

Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Motivation of choices:

Additional information important for IKU / ICYE Sweden to know when matching the projects:

Please send this form through your sending NC to the ICYE-office in Sweden as soon as possible.