

# Rise Up

## Young Minds, Loud Voices



## Call for Volunteers

October 2024 – October 2025

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC), is an initiative by the European Union, aiming at engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.



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**Österreichische Kinderfreunde**

Rauhensteingasse 5/5, 1010 Wien, Österreich

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# COME AND WORK WITH US

Österreichische Kinderfreunde is a children, youth and family organisation. It has about 300 local groups that are organised in 9 federal branches.

Kinderfreunde and Rote Falken run children's groups, kindergartens, indoor-playgrounds, family and youth centres and a lot more. Our education approach is strongly connected to children's rights and focused on education towards democracy. Österreichische Kinderfreunde and Rote Falken are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people to volunteer with the European Solidarity Corps full time, mainly in Vienna, Austria for 1 year from October 2024 until October 2025. Österreichische Kinderfreunde applied to the European Commission to cover the living costs for two volunteers.

The European Solidarity Corps is a funding programme of the European Union that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer and run solidarity projects that benefit communities around Europe. It brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. The programme is funded by the EU for all young Europeans and selected partner countries aged 18-30.

**Please note that filling out the questions below is mandatory for your application to be considered.**

## 1.1 Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken

The Rote Falken (Red Falcons) is the youth branch of the Kinderfreunde organisation. During 2025, we will host an international summer camp (for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rote Falken) among other smaller events. For these activities, we see a strong value for volunteers to look behind the scenes of such big happenings. You will have the opportunity to get to know project management on a big scale. For this, we invite you to participate in the creative planning process beforehand. This means helping us to create a diverse, meaningful and fun program for different age groups by using non-formal education and stepping out of your comfort zone when it comes to implementing your own ideas. Not only that but also working together with a team of "Falken" volunteers will be a part of your schedule as an ESC volunteer.

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## 1.2 Connect

Since 2015, Connect is a branch within our office that aims to provide free and meaningful leisure time activities for refugees and unaccompanied minors. The foundation of this work is learning by playing with a strong focus on non-formal education.

In this area, you will strengthen the team and support them in providing the activities, such as after school clubs, which will mainly happen in Vienna and in the afternoon.

## 1.3 Falkencamp Döbriach

During the summer time, it gets quiet in our office in Vienna because everything is happening in Döbriach, in our beautiful Falkencamp in the south of Austria, close to the Millstätterlake. This is why in summer, we would like you to support the team in Döbriach, providing you with the opportunity to escape the heat of the capital city and enjoy the green, natural surroundings of the camp.

In the summertime, various groups, such as families from our local branches, and international sister organisations visit the camp and spend time together onsite as a group. As mentioned earlier, we will host an international summer camp with 1,000 children and teenagers, possibly as part of an Erasmus+ project, during this period.

You can support the team there while gaining a deeper understanding of the organisation and forming new impressions of the (international) work of Kinderfreunde and Rote Falken. There will be a variety of tasks available and we will find your favourite field of work during your time in this captivating mountain area.

# LOGISTICS

## 1.4 Accommodation and Food

We will organise accommodation, as well as monthly paid food subsidies. This means there is nothing left you to do expect to stay in good contact with us.

## 1.5 Language Course and Travel Costs

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Adjusted to your travel distance, you will get a certain budget that aims to support you in your travel booking.

During your stay, we will organise a German language course for you to learn or improve your German.

## 1.6 Training and Support during the Project

Within the organisation, you will have one full time colleague who will support you in your tasks and you living here (a so-called mentor). In addition, our office is nice and welcoming and everyone will be there to answer your questions. You will receive support if you need it and you will not be left alone for any task.

## 1.7 ESC Schedule

By beginning of October, we hope that you will have arrived safely in Vienna.

During the first week, you will start getting to know the teams you will work with throughout your ESC experience. Within October, you will not only get to know Vienna and the German language but also learn about how our Connect project works and its schedule. Additionally, the preparations for the international summer camp, taking place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July until the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2025, will be happening.

In June, you will move to our Falkencamp in Döbriach/Millstättersee to begin preparations with our Döbriach team for the summer camp guests. Approximately, until the end of August, you will be part of the Döbriach Camp-team and work in a diversity of fields, many related to crafting and non-formal education.

In the last two months of your ESC experience, you will work at the headquarters of Österreichische Kinderfreunde, situated in the centre of Vienna, close to Stephansdom. Together with the team, you will prepare leisure activities for the participants of the Connect project.

# HOW TO APPLY

Please send all the required documents:

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- CV
- Motivation letter
- Questionnaire (included in the info pack – at the end of this document)

... until the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 to [alexandra.seybal@kinderfreunde.at](mailto:alexandra.seybal@kinderfreunde.at). The submission of the complete documents are a requirement in order to be part of the vetting process. During the selection process, we may invite you for an online meeting.

**If you do not have a supporting organisation yet, please indicate so clearly in the e-mail.**

## 1.8 Motivation Letter

Please explain why you would like to be a volunteer in a diverse educational field at Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken.

## 1.9 Application Form & CV

You can find the Application Form and the [CV](#) attached to the website. Please fill the documents out and send it together with the other documents to the stated e-mail address. Make sure you are applying within the deadline. Applications after the deadline will most likely not be taken into consideration.

## 1.10 Questionnaire

We created a small questionnaire to get to know prospective volunteers better. Please take the time to answer the questions thoughtfully. The answers to these questions are mandatory.

### 1.10.1 Wordrap

Please write your associations with the words below in full sentences.

FREEDOM

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DIVERSITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE
EQUALITY
PEACE
SOLIDARITY

### 1.10.2 What would you do?

Please describe what your actions would be in the following situations:

- We are at summer camp and your task is to create an evening program for 100 people. Average age = 14 years. What programme would you offer? (Feel free to explain your approach and the programme itself further)
- You are part of a leisure time program with kids aged 5-10 – you are not speaking the same language. How would you introduce yourself?
- What skills do you have and what would you like to do while your ESC year?

### 1.11 Additional Questions

- Which skills (including hobbies, proficiency instruments, technical abilities, social skills and attitude, or creativity) do you bring to this voluntary service?
- What are your experiences in the field of children and youth work?
- Please list at least three aims/expectations linked with your ESC!

Thank you for taking the time!

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