

Terrain d'Aventure du Péri *(2013-BEFR-44)*

Theme 1: Children

Theme 2: Education through sport and outdoor activities

The Hosting Organisation

Le Terrain d'Aventure du Péri (The Adventure Playground of Péri) has been created in 1977, thanks to the involvement of passionate people, parents and neighbours, for whom it was important to offer children a new space of freedom as an alternative to the technical progress and modernity they judged socially unfair.

The adventure playground is open to all young people, from 5 to 26 years old. It is a place dedicated to the self-development and the community life, a place where children can learn and experiment without pressure.

Nearly every day, between 10 and 60 children gather there to share a lot of activities: outdoor games, table games, sheds building, do-it-yourself, cooking workshops, artistic workshops, and gardening. All these activities must help them to develop their autonomy, responsibility, critical sense and solidarity.

There is no obligation to be active and there is no result/production to reach in the adventure playground. The most important is to share and to exchange with the other ones.

In order to avoid any exclusion for socio-economical reason, the access to the adventure playground is totally free of charge.

The playground is recognised as youth centre by the French community of Belgium. It follows a mission of education to an active and responsible citizenship. Seven youth workers are employed by the organisation, most of them at part time job.



EVS experience

Since many years The Adventure Playground hosts EVS volunteers from all Europe. Volunteers are completely integrated in the staff; they have the chance to learn animation techniques, to develop personal skills, to discover another way of entertaining children and young people. Volunteers are warmly welcomed and encouraged to bring new ideas and energy.

Location

The Adventure Playground is located in Liège, the second biggest city of the French Community of Belgium (community that includes the regions of Wallonia and Brussels). There are 190 000 inhabitants in Liège, and almost 450 000 more in its surrounding.



Liège is an old industrial city that is changing a lot in its adaptation to the 21st century. Well renovated historical areas are mixed with old industrial buildings and very modern architectural projects. The city faces serious problems of unemployment and poverty, but also benefits from a very dynamic cultural life thanks to its various artists and associations.

It is located on the border of the river “La Meuse”, close by the German and the Dutch borders.

The Adventure Playground in itself is a wonderful green area of 8 000 m² located on the top of the city. It is full of grass, trees and sheds build by several generations of children.

The project



In our project, the volunteer will be all the time in contact with children and young people. He/she will launch, lead and follow several activities. These ones can be various and will depend of his/her ideas, wishes and skills. They will always suppose a democratic participation of the children who have the right to choose and make proposals.

Usual activities in the Adventure Playground are:

Artistic workshops: painting, sculptures, theatre...

Creative/participative workshops: cooking, sewing,

handicraft, shed buildings, story telling...

Games: outdoor games, sport games, table games.

Outdoor activities: nature discovering, gardening, and so on.

The volunteer will also help us in the maintenance of the Playground (small reparations, painting, grass cutting) and may give a support for some administrative tasks. He/she will also help us when we'll participate in special events and/or organise punctual projects with other partner organisations: carnival, local fest, shed symposium, international workcamp.



The Playground is open six days in a week:

Monday 15-18 pm; Tuesday 15-18 pm ;
Wednesday 13-18 pm; Thursday 15-18pm ; Friday

15-20 pm ; Saturday 10-17pm. During the school holidays, it is open everyday (excepted Sunday) from 10 am to 17 pm.

The volunteer will have a flexible schedule: our working times depend on children free time from school: during the winter there are more “dead periods” instead of the summer when the activities increase and we have A LOT to do! 😊



Profile of the volunteer:

Our project is open to anybody motivated by volunteering and who wishes to be involved in our organisation, regardless to their nationality, religion, believes, diploma, professional experience.

We expect the volunteer to want to build an atmosphere of confidence and security with the youngsters; be ready to involve him/herself in the several tasks we do; be able to work together with the staff; be interested in the topic of young people entertainment; agree with our philosophy; to be enthusiast and bring new ideas. As told above it's also important to be **very flexible**.

Number of EVS volunteers hosted:

One

Risks prevention, protection and safety:

Safety at work: The EVS volunteer will always works under the responsibility of youth workers of The Adventure Playground. S/He will have the autonomy s/he'll need to develop his/her own initiatives and personal projects, but s/he won't be responsible of an activity on its own.

S/he will always get the advice and support of a youth worker.

Preparation meetings will allow the staff to inform the EVS volunteer about the rules to respect, about all in risks prevention and safety.

Safety at home: The volunteer will be hosted in an accommodation with all the modern comforts and respecting the safety rules. When arrived, the volunteer will receive a list of phone numbers to call in case of emergency. S/he will also receive the phone numbers of his/her mentor and task-related supervisor. It's important to know that the volunteer's apartment is a "studio" where s/he will live alone. The apartment is 3 kilometers far from the city center. To arrive to the adventure playground, the volunteer will have to use public transport (20 minutes by bus) or, if he/she prefers to go by foot, he/she will have to walk more or less half an hour. That's very normal and exactly what happens in all big cities but we prefer to be clear in the information we give. ☺

For the night life lovers it's also important to know that the night buses stop to run at midnight.

Risks and crisis prevention: Risks prevention is firstly linked to a good preparation. We will provide the volunteer with complete and true information before s/he decides to join our project. The sending organisation will be in charge to follow the volunteer during the pre-departure process, to inform him/her about the EVS program, about the rights and responsibilities of the different actors involved, about the administrative obligations the volunteer has to respect before to leave his/her country, etc.

When arrived in Belgium, the volunteer will participate in the on-arrival seminar and the mid-term evaluation organized by the French speaking National Agency. At the starting of the project, we'll especially take care to welcome the volunteer, to show him/her interesting places of our town and Belgium and to present him/her to other young people. We'll also check that everything is in order with the insurance.

The EVS volunteer will participate in our weekly meeting in order to be integrated in the team and to have the chance to talk about the difficulties s/he lives.

An evaluation of the EVS experience will be made on regular basis. If there is a problem, a meeting with the project responsible will be hold in order to solve it.

In case of crisis/emergency, we'll require the intervention of the specialize services required, according to the situation.

Our coordinating organization and our national agency in charge of the EVS program are resources that can help in case of any serious casual problems.

Project period:

EVS activity will start on 01/02/2015 for duration of 12 months

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