



Your International Workcamp INFO PACK

You have decided to participate in an international Workcamp. In this info pack, we will explain the concept of a 'Workcamp' and what your role as a volunteer entails. You will also find tips for planning your trip, preparing, and packing for your camp.



IBG

Internationale Begegnung
in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V.

Gefördert vom:



Bundesministerium
für Bildung, Familie, Senioren,
Frauen und Jugend

Im Rahmen des:

KJP Kinder- und
Jugendplan
des Bundes
STÄRKEN, WAS DIE ZUKUNFT TRÄGT.

ABOUT WORKCAMPS

Workcamps have existed for over 100 years. In 1920, the engineer and pacifist Pierre Cérésole organized the very first international project with volunteers from France, Switzerland, England, and Germany outside the gates of Verdun. The main focus was on **securing peace and the idea of reconciliation**. 100 years later, Workcamps have become more diverse and deal with a wide range of topics. However, they remain a **unique instrument for peaceful coexistence and international solidarity**.

A successful Workcamp has both a lasting, **positive impact on the project locations and the people there, as well as on you as a camp participant**.

Spending vacation time meaningfully, getting to know **unknown countries, improving language skills**, the desire to meet **new people and cultures...** Every participant has their own, very individual reasons for joining an international Workcamp. What is your **motivation**?

Our Organization

Volunteering in international Workcamps is not only a valuable and unforgettable experience but also an opportunity for all of us to **learn something new**. We aim to **break down prejudices and barriers** and **promote tolerance and openness**. Under the motto '**...peacing the world together!**', IBG strives to **empower young people worldwide** to contribute to a more peaceful world.



Our Network

Similarly, in other countries, there are nonprofit organizations that pursue goals similar to IBG. **Workcamp organizations worldwide** have come together under an umbrella organization called the 'ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organizations'. These over 50 organizations share common goals, principles, values, and standards. They all organize Workcamps and facilitate the exchange of volunteers among each other.

The goal of the ALLIANCE is to strengthen **cooperation between the organizations**, work within a **network**, **exchange experiences and information**, and constantly expand and improve the opportunities for international volunteer exchange.



RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Participating in a **community project** such as a Workcamp entails **responsibility**. Here, we have listed **the rights and responsibilities** that are important for your volunteer commitment:

As a volunteer in a Workcamp, you have the right to...

- be provided with **appropriate accommodation and food** for the duration of the camp.
- be **informed about important changes** to the project.
- receive an **explanation of the purpose of the project**.
- receive **health and safety instructions** regarding the work project.
- **express opinions and thoughts** regarding the group process and project freely and be **involved in decisions**.
- have your **data and information** treated **confidentially**.
- **not be subjected to discriminatory, exclusionary, or disadvantageous behaviors**.



As a volunteer in a Workcamp, it is expected that you...

- accept the rules and conditions of the project.
- inform your sending organization (IBG) about any relevant health restrictions or risks on your part.
- independently gather information about the project and the region.
- organize your own travel and arrive at the agreed meeting point at the agreed time.
- take care of insurance matters yourself.
- are able and willing to independently plan leisure activities within the group.
- behave with respect for the cultural expectations and laws of the country.
- provide feedback on your camp (it can also be constructive feedback on how to do something differently next time).

You may encounter people in your Workcamp with **very different gender identities, sexual orientations, cultural or social backgrounds, religions, and beliefs** than your own. You may also meet people with **disabilities or other physical and health conditions** different from yours.

We expect you to **be open-minded and to respect the identity and abilities of all volunteers**, even if they are unfamiliar to you! A work camp is the **perfect place to learn more about the world and its people**.

So, **be open, respectful, and curious**.



TRAVEL PLANNING

You will receive the **info sheet** with the exact details about the meeting point for your camp **no later than 3-4 weeks before** the start of the camp. However, you can plan your journey to the region beforehand. It's usually best to plan your arrival in the region for the afternoon.

Connections that arrive in the evening often make it impossible for you to continue traveling to the meeting point. In that case, it's best to travel one day earlier and plan for accommodation to stay overnight, then continue to the camp the next morning.

Participating in a Workcamp almost always means you are traveling to a different region, country, or even continent. You really help the world climate by choosing to travel by train, bus, bicycle, or even on foot instead of by airplane. While this may take a bit longer, especially within Europe, it is quite feasible.

If you choose to travel to your Workcamp abroad by **bus, train, bicycle, or on foot**, we will gladly refund a portion of your travel expenses.*

* a permanent residence in Germany and travel from Germany to the Workcamp and back is one of the requirements.

If you exclusively travel by bus and/or train, the following subsidies apply based on the distance between your place of residence and the campsite, according to the route planner:

- 0 - 500 km: 0 Euro subsidy
- 501 - 800 km: 50 Euro subsidy
- 801 - 1,200 km: 100 Euro subsidy
- 1,201 - 1,650 km: 150 Euro subsidy
- 1,651 km and above: 200 Euro subsidy

If you exclusively travel by bicycle or on foot, we can grant you an additional 50€ in travel expense subsidies, depending on the distance traveled.



PACKING LIST

Before you set off, besides your travel planning, packing your backpack will likely raise some questions. **What items will be important at the camp? What should you definitely not forget?**

For every Workcamp, you should consider the following:

- **Passport / ID card** (and a copy in case you lose it)
- **Vaccination card / digital vaccination certificate** (if specific vaccinations are recommended for your destination)
- **Travel documents** (printed and/or stored online)
- **European Health Insurance Card**
- **Info sheet for your camp**
- **Emergency numbers** (write down important phone numbers on paper as well)
- **Pocket money** (consider the camp's extra fee, if any)

Depending on the project and local (weather) conditions, there are often special recommendations. So always **remember to also check the packing list in the info sheet** for your camp.

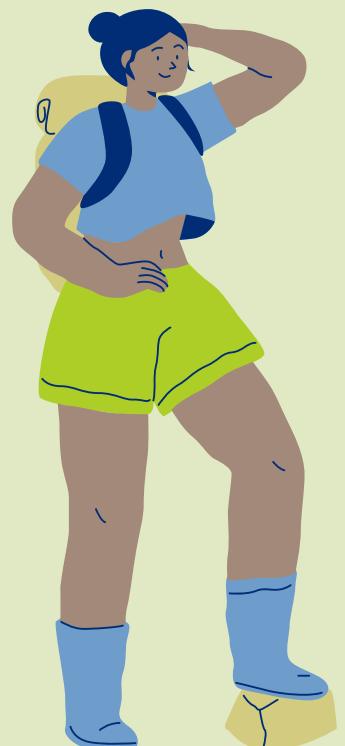
- **Towel** (microfiber towels are space-saving and lightweight)
- **Swimwear and flip-flops**



- **Medications and necessary items** (e.g. allergy tablets, contact lens case and solution, contraceptives, headache medication, anti-nausea medication...)
- **Small first aid kit** (with tick card for areas with a lot of ticks)
- **Hygiene items** (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap...)
- **Laundry detergent** (e.g. in travel-friendly tube)
- **Earplugs**
- **Charger for your phone**
- **Adapter for plugs** (find out beforehand which plugs are used in your destination country)
- **Smaller backpack or bag for day trips**
- **Flashlight**
- **Reusable water bottle**
- And all other **items mentioned in your info sheet**.

It's also nice to have:

- **Recipes** (preferably easy to cook and typical for your region or country)
- **Photos, postcards, maps** of your country
- **Sweets or snacks to share** (chocolate, gummy bears, local specialties...)
- **Music / instruments / games**



Tips for You

Here are some tips that might be useful for your camp experience:

- Know your **motivation, desires, and expectations**. Why did you sign up for your camp? What do you hope to gain from the experience?
- Assess **realistically what you want and can achieve**.
- **Learn about your destination**.
- Learn a few words and phrases in the local language before your departure. It can facilitate communication during the trip and is often greatly appreciated by the local population.
- Be prepared to face **emotional and physical challenges**. Feeling "foreign" in a new situation is completely normal in the initial phase of a work camp.
- Allow yourself enough time to arrive and explore the new environment on-site.
- Be aware of your (pre-)judgments towards other people/cultures and actively work to break them down.
- Be clear about your actions and communication, and consider how both can be received.
- Signal respect and acceptance towards different or unfamiliar behavior.
- Be flexible and be prepared for **organizational changes** that may occur from time to time.

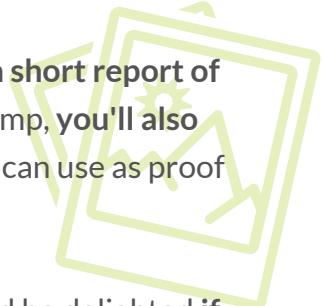
Use the Workcamp as an opportunity to **overcome yourself, to face new challenges, and to gain new experiences**.

Several weeks in an international group can be challenging. At the same time, this intense time together is also what makes international Workcamps special. If you approach others openly, close relationships will quickly develop, enriching both you and the entire group.

After the camp...?

We're always curious: How was your camp? Did it meet your expectations? Did you learn something you'd like to share?

We'd be thrilled if you'd like to **send us a few pictures and a short report of your experience**. If you fill out our feedback form for the camp, you'll also receive a confirmation of participation from us, which you can use as proof for applications, etc.



IBG is an organization of and for volunteers. Therefore, we'd be delighted if you'd like to **continue contributing to the organization**. For example, as a camp leader for a Workcamp in Germany, you could show international volunteers your home country. Or you could support IBG with trainings, preparation seminars, and information sessions. And of course, you could also become a member of the association and participate in discussions and decisions about IBG's work and the Workcamps of the future.



If you'd simply like to **stay up-to-date on current projects** and available spots in other camps, you can also just [subscribe to our newsletter](#) or [follow us on social media](#).

But for now, we wish you a safe journey and an exciting time at your work camp!

YOUR IBG-TEAM



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