

**Nom de l'association : UNION FORUM**  
**Pays : Ukraine**

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## **UNION FORUM in short**

UNION FORUM is nonpolitical, non-governmental, nonprofit youth organization founded in 1991 in Lviv, Ukraine and running International Volunteer Exchange Programme (inbound and outbound) since 1991 without gaps. We also do seminars and trainings aimed at youth personal development, democratic values, volunteering, European programs, leadership skills development and other, actively promote Youth in Action (2007-2013) and now ERASMUS + in Ukraine as EVS sending organisation since 2007.

The mission of Union Forum (since it was founded) is to provide opportunities for young people to get to know the culture first hand and make friendships that plant the seeds of future peace and understanding, to provide development opportunities to Ukrainian youth, making an important investment in Ukraine future, its human capital- our youth. And to engraft democracy values in civil society. UNION FORUM SLOGAN is "COME&GO, LEARN&GROW"

Every year Union Four organises about 4-7 international voluntary projects in Ukraine in cooperation with different NGOs and social institutions.

## **General conditions**

Age limit: 18-27.

Camp language: English. Volunteers must be able to speak at least low-intermediate English.

Camp duration: up to two weeks in summer (July-August).

Number of volunteers per camp: 8-10 volunteers including 1-2 camp leaders. There will be a maximum of 2 volunteers per country in order to have an intercultural group.

Application: Union Forum starts placing volunteers as soon our program is ready- from March 1.

## **Volunteering:**

The volunteers will volunteer up to 30 hours a week, having the weekends off. There can be exceptions on summer children camps and during the festivals there can be longer hours during the day.

## **Leisure activities**

During all projects time can be spent to explore the surroundings and more of Ukraine. We always try to organise some interesting trips during the weekend - to get to know more about Ukraine, its culture and history. The camp leaders will prepare some activities, but ideas are always welcome! Also during the camp period most of our projects foreseen different interesting master-classes aimed on personal development and cultural exchange.

## **Camp leaders**

One-two camp leaders from Ukraine in each project. These leaders are ex-volunteers with experience in voluntary camps, they will be trained by Union Forum. They will be living and volunteering together with the other volunteers during the project.

## **Info sheets**

At least 4 weeks before the project starts we will send to volunteer's sending organisations detailed information sheet about the work camp. The info sheet contains information about the terminal and meeting place and time, contact numbers including emergency ones, more detailed information about the work and lodging, a list of what to bring.

Right before the start of the work camp the camp leaders send a welcome letter to all participants in which they will introduce themselves, emphasize what participants should bring, and have the opportunity to give the latest information about the project.

## **Extra Participation fee**

Since 2015 we have introduced a participation fee for all camps. Union Forum doesn't get any financial support from the state government, local municipalities or any other local or international funds. Due to economical crisis of past 2 years we had to reduce outgoing volunteers fee twice in equivalent to Euro due to fact that half of Ukrainian population now moved to low income category (less then 150 Euro per month).

The EXTRA fee for all Union Forum camps will be 15 Euro. It will help us to cover utilities or transportation during the projects.

## **IMPORTANT: BEFORE COMING TO UKRAINE**

TO ENTER UKRAINE VOLUNTEER MUST HAVE **international passport** (not plastic ID!!!!) valid for sixth months beyond date of travel. The citizens of EU and EEA countries, USA, Canada, Izrael, Japan, Korea, Turkey, Serbia and neighbouring ex-Soviet countries – DO NOT NEED visas to come to Ukraine for short term. The other nationalities might need visa - please check it in advance.

Updated information about each country citizens on the site of Ukrainian Government

<http://mfa.gov.ua/en/consular-affairs/entering-ukraine/visa-requirements-for-foreigners>

## **IS IT SAFE TO GO TO UKRAINE for UNION FORUM CAMPS? – YES, IT IS!**

Current situation in Ukraine is a conflict zone located on the very East of Ukraine, in two districts (there are 24 all together in Ukraine), which are cut to half: half is controlled by pro-Russian forces and part by Ukraine. Ukraine is the biggest country in Europe and distances between the conflict zone and camp sites are really big enough to GUARANTEE complete safety for volunteers. Due to agreement since summer 2015 the conflicting sides are not using any long-distance weapons as tanks or artillery. BUT EVEN IN case it would be used- THE CAMPS ARE MUCH MORE FAR AWAY from possible weapons reach.

UNION FORUM takes very seriously volunteers safety. We do the camps only in places which are absolutely safe in a long-term prognosis. With full responsibility we guarantee to inform the volunteers and sending organisations immediately in case the conflict situation will change to worse (what is not expected by any analytical prognosis) even if it will be still safe for camp sites.

Ukraine IS SAFE because there were NO terrorist acts in any of our cities during last years. From all Ukrainian cities there is only one- the capital of Ukraine Kiev, where time to time we have people meeting and protests after MAIDAN is over (since March 2014).

THE MAXIMUM danger international volunteers should be warned about is pickpocketing in public transport and theft of personal belongings IF REMAIN UNWATCHED in public places (such as train station, etc).

At this isn't easy times for Ukraine we ESPECIALLY need a support from international community. We welcome volunteers who will demonstrate that Ukraine is not isolated from international community, will practically add to promotion of international understanding and friendship, tolerance and many other values that can be named THE SEEDS of PEACE.

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Code	Name	Dates	Place	Type	Vol.
UF01	Medieval Bastion	24.07-06.08	Khmelnyskyi reg.	ARCH/ MANU	10
UF02	Art Cart	02.07– 16.07	Zaporizhia reg.	FEST/ MANU	10
UF03	Teach& Play	30.07– 13.08 (±1-2 day- exact days before May 10)	Zaporizhia reg.	KIDS	10
UF04	Tomatino Ukraine Fest	17.08-30.08	Chernihiv reg.	FEST/ ENVI	10

## **UF01 Ancient Bastion July24- Aug. 06 2016 Khmelnytskyi reg. ARCH/MANU 10**

**Project partner:** Medzhybizh State Historical-Cultural Reserve.

**About the project:** The camp will be located in a village Medzhibozh, Khmelnytskyi region, in the western part of Ukraine. The first mention about the village dates back in 1146.

Medzhybizh Fortress – a monument of fortification architecture of the XVI century, made in the Renaissance style. The significant landmark was built on a cape formed by the rivers Southern Bug and Buzhok. In 2001 the castle has received the status of the State Historical and Cultural Reserve. Since 2004 the castle is the center of Ukrainian historical festival "Ancient Medzhybizh" which annually takes place at the end of August. During the festival days in the castle live knights, archers, princesses and mythical heroes. There is a museum in the territory of the castle. The new exposition of Medzhybizh museum includes ethnography, history and icon painting, Memory Museum of victims of Holodomor 1932-1933 (in Podilia region) and exhibition halls. Today Medzhybizh is interesting not only by its ancient castle, which attracts the tourists from the whole world.

**Volunteering:** Volunteers will be engaged in archaeological and restoration on the territory of fortress and possibly in a castle, including but not limited to. Medzhybizh work Medzhybizh Castle, doing different project: the archeological works on fortification walls, archeological digging, possible some renovation works.

**Accommodation:** Volunteers will be accommodated in tents in the territory of the fortress. Sleeping bag needed. Food will be provided. Facilities are available including free Wi-Fi.

**Location:** Located in the village Medzhybizh, Khmelnytskyi region, at the confluence of the rivers Buzhok and Southern Bug, 30 km east of Khmelnytskyi.

**Arrival:** Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine. Volunteers would need to arrive to Kyiv or Lviv and then take a train. Detailed information about meeting place, how to get there from Kyiv or Lviv and other useful info will come with infosheet not later than 4 weeks before start date.

**Terminal:** nearest international airports are Lviv (LWO) and Kyiv (KBP)

**Additional info:** Camp language is English. The researchers volunteering at this reserve will do interesting excursions and workshops / master classes for volunteers. For student studying archeology administration of reserve is ready to provide a certificate about participating in the archeological field work. EXTRA FEE 15 Euro

## **UF02 Art Cart July 02- July 16 2016 Chervonokazache vil., Zaporizhia reg. FEST/MANU 10**

**About the project:** The project will take place in the historical and tourist settlement "Ethno-village" and was initiated by social organization "Dyvosvit" in Zaporizhia for the purpose to create a space to showcase all of the ethnic diversity of the region. The permanent settlement of ethno village will be created on the basis of Chervonokazache village. Each of the buildings of historical and cultural settlement will reflect national and cultural features of the life of a particular ethnic group. This camp allows in theory and in practice to experience volunteer in different directions from the social assistance to environmental activities and community development. Learn about the possibilities and prospects of development of volunteering in community. It is an opportunity to experiment a different way of living in a sustainable way and use of alternative sources of energy. Every day the ethno village has planned program so the volunteers will be actively engage in many master classes and trainings. The camp will run in cooperation with social NGO "Dyvosvit" and NGO working with local Jewish minority.

**Volunteering:** will consist of three social area (assist people in need, lonely and elderly, people with disabilities who live in nearby villages); eco-area (care, planting, watering plants, creation of environmental facilities, eco-trails, recycling facilities using alternative energy); creativity (creation of art objects), assistance and participation in multi master-classes during the festival, such as but not limited "Creation of eco-comfort", „Production of natural detergent", "Making dishes from newspapers and plastic bags", "Eco-bags made of natural materials", "Souvenirs from light bulbs" and many others. And trainings, such as but not limited to "Why Volunteering?", „Ethics of volunteering. Ability to listen and hear ", "Ecology. Eco-trail. Environmental philosophy ", "International volunteering", "The organization and planning of activities", "My plan is to changes in the native community" . VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY WELCOME to bring their ideas, run own workshops and training on sustainable development, arts, volunteering, etc.

**Accommodation:** in tents. There are basic, very natural, facilities: summer shower, toilet, stove, comfortable eco-alcoves, sports and children's playgrounds, clean pond available for swimming, endless fields and picturesque steppe. Food provided. Each day there will be appointed duty in the kitchen.

**Location:** The village Chervonokazache is located in Zaporizhia region, 60km North from Zaporizhia

**Arrival:** Zaporizhia. The city is located in south-central Ukraine and lies along banks of the Dnieper River. Transportation from Zaporizhia to camp site and back will be provided. Detailed information about meeting place and other useful info will come with infosheet not later than 4 weeks before start date.

**Terminal:** (OZH) Zaporizhia International Airport (direct low cost Pegasus and Turkish airlines flights). Or Kyiv (KBP) and then by train. Detailed information will come with Infosheet not later than 4 weeks before start date.

**Leisure time:** Besides lots of master-classes, art workshops, trainings on personal and sustainable developments, there will be evening program, sitting around the bonfire, singing, dancing, quests and other activities.

**Additional info:** Camp language is English. Volunteers are very welcome to bring and develop own ideas and initiatives in according to camp thematic. EXTRA FEE 15 Euro

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## **UF03 Teach&Play July 30 ( $\pm 1-2$ day) - August 13 ( $\pm 1-2$ day) 2016 Zaporizhia region KIDS 10**

*The exact start and end date of the camp will be determined not later than the first week of May.*

About the project: This will be a summer wellness children camp on seaside in little town Prymosk. All together there will be around 200 children from different social and ethnic background in particular socially disadvantaged children. The camp for children is sponsored by Local Charity Foundation "Mazel Tov" (organisation created with the support support of local Jewish minority community). The foundation runs many projects including but not limited to development of volunteering in a region thought the movement "Do Good, Ukraine", the club for people with special needs, educational programs including free Language Clubs (informal studying of foreign languages). All Foundation activities are open TO EVERYONE with no matter of religion, background, ethnicity, gender or other.

The aim of the camp is to provide wellness, recreation and educational opportunities to children from social background and especially for socially disadvantaged children. Among the other ideas of the camp are integration of different ethnic groups, promotion of understanding and tolerance, development of interpersonal communication, socialization and informal education of children.

Volunteers are welcome to join this camp and bring their international spirit to encourage children to further progress in their fields and in English language studying, to make the camp even more racy with different nationalities and ethnicity adding value to mutual support and understanding.

Volunteers will have a chance to share their enthusiasm, knowledge, experience with children, who in their turn will help volunteers to discover multicolor Ukraine.

**Volunteering:** In volunteers will be divided between different children group and will assist the group leaders in leisure time organisation? Such as different workshops, competitions, walks, parties, etc. . Informal teaching will run in form of games, songs (and possibly performance). Volunteers should expect to be engaged with children from morning to evening, while it will be much more pleasure than real work 😊

**Accommodation:** in premises with all facilities. NO sleeping bag. Food provided.

**Location:** the summer camp will be in Prymorsk, seaside at the south of Zaporizhia region

**Arrival:** Zaporizhia. The transportation to campsite will be provided.

**Terminal:** (OZH) Zaporizhia International Airport (direct low cost Pegasus and Turkish airlines flights). Or Kyiv (KBP) and then by train. Detailed information will come with Infosheet not later than 4 weeks before start date.

**Additional information:** Motivation letter is needed. EXTRA FEE 15 Euro

**IMPORTANT:** The exact start and end date of the camp will be determined not later than the first week of May.

## **UF04 Tomatino Ukraine Fest August 17-30 2016 Obyrok, Chernihiv region FEST/ENVI**

About the project: This camp will be a part of a unique ecological festival held on the organic farm/ art eco-settlement "Art Island Obyrok" in a partnership with Ukrainian Club of Organic Agriculture. The festival will happen on August 25-28. It is focused on art events and attracting more people to the beautiful creative life in the nature. The main idea is promoting organic environmentally friendly lifestyle as the most beneficial, show people different aspects of sustainable development such as eco-building, permaculture, organic farming, healthy eating etc. All these activities are put into the interactive form of tomato festival that includes lots of practical workshops, contests, fun and tomatoes. During the festival organizers plan to run an ecological version of Spanish Tomatina in Ukrainian style. Intrigued? Come and see yourself! 😊

Volunteering: Volunteers are welcome to assist in different spheres: working on land - growing plants in the organic garden, helping on the kitchen: drying vegetables and fruits etc, preparing of the festival space before festival- arranging the territory, putting dust bags, helping in establishing of tent place, cutting invasive vegetation, collecting wastes etc. Helping to clean the territory and return it previous look after the festival. During the Festival Days volunteers will have opportunity to participate and assist in different master-classes, art and cultural events.

**Accommodation:** in tents. Food provided. Food will be vegetarian and cooked from local exclusively organic products 😊

**Location:** village Obyrky (Obyrok), Chernihiv region

**Arrival:** most likely it will be Konotop, but will be finally fixed already in infosheet which will come at least 4 weeks before camp start date. In any case volunteers should plan to arrive first to Kyiv and then to take a train to meeting point. There is no other airport in the area than in Kyiv. Detailed information will come with infosheet.

**Terminal:** (KBP) Boryspil International Airport, (IEV) Kyiv (Zhuliany) International Airport

**Leisure time:** Volunteers can take part in all the activities of the festival, enjoy the beautiful nature sights, swim in the river nearby, gather flowers and herbs, visit art-village, communicate with many eco-activists and creative people.

**Additional Information:** [EXTRA FEE 15 Euro](#)

**Envie d'aller faire du volontariat en Ukraine? Contactez le SVI :**

**[info@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:info@servicevolontaire.org) ou visitez notre site :**

**[www.servicevolontaire.org](http://www.servicevolontaire.org)!**