



“Mir Tesen” workcamps 2016

Introduction

Info about the Organisation – general and brief. Saint-Petersburg social organization of cultural, educational and exchange programs for youth «MIR TESEN» («IT'S a SMALL WORLD») was established in 1999. Supported by Committee of youth policy and relations with NGOs of Government of St Petersburg since in the some years since 2003.

“Mir Tesen”- the Partner of Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations since 2004, the associated member of CCIYS since 2012.

Contacts

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Our objectives

Our objectives are:

- ✓ to develop mutual understanding and solidarity between people,
- ✓ to promote tolerance and intercultural dialogue between young people all over the world;
- ✓ to encourage youth to find their own value in the world and to introduce Russian cultural Heritage in the world;
- ✓ Preservation of the cultural sites, which are the incomparable achievements of Russian art, and a key site to understand the mentality of the people of the epochs when the monuments were built;
- ✓ to raise awareness among the local population regarding world heritage and the importance their participation to preserving this site.

Our activities

- ✓ short terms volunteers work camps: sending and hosting;
- ✓ short terms volunteers work camps for Russian speaking volunteers, living in EU;

Our Work camps in St-Petersburg

Cultural Heritage Protection has been an important feature of the volunteer projects of “Mir Tesen”.

The UN General Assembly declares the following:” Governments should institute, in cooperation with non-governmental youth organizations, travel and exchange programs and youth camps to help youth understand cultural diversity at both the national and international levels, develop intercultural learning skills and participate in the preservation of the cultural heritage of their own and other societies and the world around them”.

The facts about work camps

- Work camp: all the camps that are offered by our organization are relocating. It gives volunteers a great opportunity to see various architectural styles, to learn about historical events, concerned sites of famous Russian artists and poets of the 18-19 centuries, to see the real life of Orthodox monasteries. The big advantage of our workcamps is a possibility to see both the imperial city St- Petersburg and the real Russian countryside. Participants of our camp are usually involved in the variety of exciting activities. The work is combined with a cultural program.
- Participants: our main target group young people 18+ years old. We accept to our work camps volunteers of all age, but preferably volunteers fewer than 30. The number of participants in camp

is 7 international volunteers+1 camp-leader. We welcome volunteers, who have skills in sphere of restoration of cultural heritage monuments, as well historian, architect, and engineer.

- Duration: Our work camps last 12 days .
- Work: As a rule volunteers work about 5 hours a day for 5 days a week. Volunteers will help in restoration of Country Houses and in State open-air museums. The volunteers will be engaged in improving the parks: take care of plantation of trees, mow the meadows, cure the trees, clean the hollows, sweep the grounds, cleaning them from old grass, leaves, brunches, twigs, garbage etc. Cleaning the foundations of restoring building; restoration the paths; cleaning the park's ponds; garden's design by flowerbeds and decorative bushes.
- Accommodation/food: «Mir tesen» provides a basic condition accommodation and food in St- Petersburg and in Leningrad region. Due to the relocating status of the camps, volunteers will live in different places (wooden house/school/dormitory/rental flat). More information will be announced in Infosheet later.
- Camp leader: There is one leader at the camp, who is responsible for work coordination and link between participants and the host. We train our leaders during the special sessions and seminars. The leader participates in daily life equally with volunteers. We are interested to host Russian speaking camp leaders from the Post SU Region, Balt and other countries. Welcome Russian speaking camp leaders. «Mir tesen» does invite camp leaders from abroad. In some of the camps, the local host takes the leader's role and there is no other formal leader.
- Explanation about fees for incoming volunteers: all the previous years NGO «Mir tesen» hosted heritage workcamps for free. However, due to the difficult economic situation in Russia this year with no support available to the international voluntary projects neither from the state nor from the local authorities we have to charge small fee 40 euros in the work camps and 100 euro for language camps. This fee is for organizational expenses, not for contribution towards the running costs of camps. That is the only way to keep us going. Free volunteers, who apply by their own, pay 100 euros extra fee.

What to bring

For all the camps volunteers should bring sleeping bag, work clothes & gloves, summer clothes & swimming suit, but also warm clothes and rain-coat because weather in St. Petersburg is really unpredictable. Volunteers are also asked to bring information about their country, photos, music, songbooks, games, flags, musical instruments, etc to organize an intercultural evening.

Conditions for participation

The age of Volunteers should be 18+. The age of World Heritage work camps is 18-30 years. Participants should be motivated to do voluntary work, be ready to meet realities of local life and have enough flexibility to accept it, be tolerant and open for the new experience. For language camp, we kindly ask to send the motivation letter on Russian from the volunteer with the VEF and the copy of passport.

Transportation

Saint-Petersburg is a huge city and volunteer should be ready to travel long distances to work sites (about 80-200 km). As most of the camps are taking place in Leningrad region, the transportation time can take more than hour. Please notice that the transportation expenses to the workplaces are to be paid by volunteers themselves. *However, due to the euro-ruble currency this year the journey will be rather cheap.*

Insurance

In Russian camps insurance is not provided. Therefore volunteers have to bring **their own insurance** against illness, accident and third party risk. Participants from EU countries should bring EU health insurance form.

Visa issues

To arrange the Invitation we need the following data: First name, Last name, Gender, Date of birth, Your

Passport number, scan Passport copy, date of issue and expiry, Citizenship.

- For EU-citizens we can make an invitation letter ourselves for 1-2 days and send it quite quickly by fax or scan. Then we send it by post, it takes 1-2 weeks for delivery.
- Deadline for EU-citizen applications to camps is 1 month before the start of the camp.
- For non EU-citizens (the USA, Canada, Australia, Latin America) we provide tourist visa – it is enough for participating in any short-term project we organize (no more 30 days). Making invitation in tourist agency takes for 1-2 days, cost of invitation letter – 10 euro, should be paid by volunteers upon arrival. Post delivery takes about 3 weeks.
- Deadline for non EU-citizen applications to camps is 8-10 weeks before the start of the camp.
- Unfortunately, according to Russian laws we cannot make an invitation letter ourselves for countries of migration risk (countries of African and Asian continents). It should be formed by volunteers individually – the volunteer can apply to tourist agency in his/ her country.

Registration

As any foreigner arrived in Russian Federation for more than 7 days should have the registration, we will make this registration ourselves. The payment is required for state migration service.

Info sheets

Camp details, practical information and travel directions will be sent to the exchange partners 3 weeks before beginning of the camp. Please do not share our contacts with your volunteers. We would like communicate only with sending organizations.

Special Remark

The museums fees and local transport expenses aren't going to be covered, volunteers will have to pay on their own. However, due to the euro-ruble currency this year the journey will be rather cheap =)

Contact

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Welcome to
St-Petersburg!



"Mir Tesen" international workcamps - 2016

№	CAMP	WORKCAMP'S NAME	LOCATION	WORK CAMP DATES	TYPE	VOL.	AGE	COMMENTS
2	MT02/16	"150th anniversary of Dostoevsky's novel"	St. Petersburg	06.06 – 17.06	Lang/Envi/ Reno	6	18+	
3	MT03/16	"Country Estates"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	04.07 – 15.07	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	
4	MT04/16	"Russian Country Estates"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	04.07 – 15.07	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	For Russian speaking
5	WHV-MT/16	"Country Estates in St-Petersburg Region – it's the World Heritage sites"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	18.07 – 29.07	Heritage/ Cult/Envi	10	18-30	
6	MT05/16	"The Royal hunting near the St.Petersburg"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	18.07 – 29.07	Heritage/ Cult/Envi	8	18+	For Russian speaking
7	MT06/16	"The spirit of Country Estates and Monasteries"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	01.08 - 12.08	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	
8	MT07/16	"The secrets of Russian Country Estates and Monasteries"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	01.08 - 12.08	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	For Russian speaking
9	MT08/16	"The Apple Spas and traditions"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	15.08 – 26.08	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	
10	MT09/16	"The Apple Spas and Russian traditions"	St. Petersburg/ Leningrad Region	15.08 – 26.08	Cult /Envi/ /Heritage	8	18+	For Russian speaking
11	MT10/16	" Learning Dostoevsky's language "	St. Petersburg	29.08 – 09.09	Lang/Envi/ Reno	6	18+	

