

Deutzen Work Camp Report

On Saturday 3rd, the most of us arrived in Deutzen, the small village where is located the Ökokirche in which we had to work. We began with an introductory game to get to know each other and spend time together.

On Sunday 4th, we were invited to attend a morning mass at a church located in Borna, a small town near Deutzen. During the afternoon, we met the local people and members of the Deutzen church community. They prepared some coffee and meals for us and we introduced ourself. We sang and played some music together, and also, we played a mimic game.



The work in Okökirche started on Monday 5th. We met again with the local people at the church to discuss what task we had to do during the 2 weeks of the camp. Some of the tasks included:

- Cutting the high grass
- Removing weeds and other plants that didn't allow other plants to grow
- Cleaning and organizing the church entrance hall to prepare it for painting
- Painting the entrance hall
- Building a Compost toilette
- Building a small garden shed to save garden tools
- Building a Composter
- Replacing the bricks in the priest's house floor
- Building fences around vines
- Assembling shelves
- Separating coarse soil from fine soil to be used for the plants
- Shredding large tree branches in smaller ones so we can use them in the compost





We usually worked every day from 8:30 AM until 2:30 AM, with a short break at 11 AM. After work we returned to the house, where we were staying, to have lunch. Each day, two of us were assigned to clean the house, go to the grocery store and prepared lunch. These two peoples didn't join the work when it was their turn to be "the Kitchen team".

In the afternoons, we sometimes had free time to visit some lakes to spend the rest of the day, or sometimes we accorded to play

some fun and interesting games prepared by the team leaders.

Of the 15 days that the camp last, we worked during 9 days. During our days off and during the weekends, we decided to go visit the big cities as Leipzig and Dresden. It was really awesome and interesting to visit the churches, monuments, go shopping, and spend time with friends. One free afternoon, we took a guided ride through a forest to the highest point of Deutzen, guided by one of the local men. We also visited Borna, near from Deutzen, and played new and unknown games to me.





Each evening, we ate different foods from different countries. Following dinner, we had the country evening, where each of us talked about our country and costumes. It was fascinating to learn about new cultures, costumes, dances, and music. I really believe this experience helped me to know and appreciate diverse culture, regardless of the origins.

The first week flew by, and when it finished, we did a reflection about how was our first week and how we felt about it. We were discussing what went well and what needed improvement. Together, we decided on changes to enhance our experience for the final week.

The second week also passed quickly. Before it ended, we meet Karolin and Steffi. Steffi taught us dance moves from different cultures, and we all danced together. Abigail and I, also taught them how to dance “Pericón”, a traditional and well-known dance from Argentina. We had a wonderful day.

Finally, and unfortunately, the day to say goodbye arrived. I think I speak for most of us when I say that it was the saddest day of the camp. Despite the sadness, we are grateful for the experience, having met many new friends with whom we can keep in touch and someday meet again.

