



INFORMATION BROCHURE ECUMENICAL YOUTH SERVICES (EYS)

INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS
IN GERMANY

2026

WHAT ARE WORKCAMPS...

The Swiss Pierre Cérésole, who founded the Service Civil International (SCI) in 1920, is considered the founder of the work camp idea. In the winter of 1920/21, the first international reconstruction camp, today we call it a work camp, took place in the village of Esnes near Verdun with 8 participants. A few years earlier, the village had been the largest combat zone of the First World War. The idea behind the reconstruction camps is to promote and preserve peace.



...AND HOW IT ALL STARTED

Even after the Second World War, the idea of "**never again war**" had not lost a bit of its importance. The Ecumenical Youth Services (EYS) organised their first International **Re-Construction Camp in 1956** and are still active. They are in the tradition of the Ecumenical International Re-Construction Camps developed and organised by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches in Geneva (WCC).



AND TODAY...

Until today, peace and freedom can not be taken for granted. EYS camps enable international understanding. At the camp, people from different cultures, religions, nationalities and social backgrounds can have fun, get to know each other, live together, work together and help shape society. International work camps foster personal development of the participants, promote contact and living together with people from other countries, and encourage self-responsibility and social engagement.



ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is usually very simple. Sleeping is on isomats or mattresses on the floor. Please bring a sleeping bag and a sleeping mat or bedding (as indicated in the info sheet of the respective camp!).



Here are the
4
most important
aspects of living
together:

1. CLEANING

- We clean everything ourselves: The rooms we occupy, the kitchen, toilets and bathroom.
- Cleaning teams are formed to take responsibility for the cleanliness of the accommodation for one day. Everyone gets a turn!



2. FOOD

- Everyday there is a kitchen team of 2-3 people who are responsible for the food during the day
- The kitchen team is exempt from work camp duties.



- We want to get to know your regional cuisine. Bring recipes of dishes you are proud of, we want to taste your country and culture! Keep in mind that the recipes are suitable for a group of 15 people.
- Cooking skills are not required - motivation and positive energy are enough ;-)

3. WORKING

During our camps we will work about 6 hours per day for 9 days. We have one day off during the 2 weeks. We do not work on weekends. Most of the time the place of our work is near our accommodation.

Fields of work:

Landscaping and gardening

- Pruning shrubs, weeding, planting
- Building seating
- Cleaning paths
- Laying out greenareas

Renovation / Refurbishment / Cleaning

- Painting of walls, benches
- Restoration in the house
- Clearing out of the attic / cellar

Preservation of cultural heritage

- Cleaning old fences and sculptures
- Painting fences



There is a lot to do, but don't worry, there are breaks, refreshments and great activities in the free time!

4. FREE TIME

We have lots of ideas for our leisure time which we spend together, but we want to involve **YOU** in the preparation and planning. **Bring your ideas for free time and group activities!** We would like to get to know you, so show us some games and activities you like to play or do with your friends!

In our free time you can expect

- activities that will bring us closer as a group
- cultural evenings
- sport
- playing music and singing around camp fire
- trips and excursions
- DIY
- board games
- movie nights
- your games and activities



If you are wondering how much money you should bring with you, here is a tip: Food and excursion costs will be fully covered, therefore 5-10€/day pocket money for a snack is enough, unless you plan to buy souvenirs and gifts.

Guys and girls are accommodated in the same house in **separated** rooms/areas with showers and tolettes.

Make sure to contact your SIM card provider and have the necessary steps for using your internet data and phone number abroad prepared beforehand.

Please don't forget: **passport** or **identity card**, **valid student ID** for discounts (if you have it), **health insurance card** or documents.

Important information and suggestions

The participation fee is 40€. EYS workcamps are funded by the German Federal Government.

We highly recommend having **travel luggage insurace**, especially if you are travelling overseas.

Application starts on **February 1st** and ends when all places are taken.

In our camps everyone is welcome, because **we love diversity!** We find it very important to treat each other politely, considerately and decently.

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As part of the:



A photograph showing two young women working on a brick wall. One woman is in the foreground, wearing a teal shirt and white gloves, using a trowel to apply mortar. Another woman is in the background, wearing a blue shirt and yellow gloves, also working on the wall. They are outdoors in a green, leafy environment.

Do you have
questions?

Contact us:

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Would you like
to participate ?

Apply here

