

WATERMELON TIME

European Solidarity Corps Team Volunteering

Valašské Klobouky,

Czech Republic

5 - 19 July



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ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

The traditional **mowing camp** is finally here. The third edition of the summer volunteer camp in Valašské Klobouky is approaching and is once again waiting for participants who will eventually become their kindred spirits.

Do you like watermelon? Don't you have plans for the summer yet and are you tempted by a new experience?

Do you want to meet people from all over the world and at the same time help nature?

Sign up for the Watermelon Time Camp and become part of the tradition.



Watermelon Time is a great opportunity to meet new people and better understand their origins. Together, we will experience 14 days full of adventures, volunteer work, new experiences, and, most importantly, new friendships.

Watermelon Time camp is a volunteer summer camp where you not only help preserve biodiversity in the Wallachia region (Czech Republic) but also get a tremendous opportunity to learn more about local culture and traditions. The camp is designed to collectively appreciate traditional crafts and learn more about the cultures of other participants. The event is planned for **20 participants** (10 from the Czech Republic and 10 from the rest of the world 🌍), who will be selected primarily based **on their motivation**. We have prepared networking activities focused on **mutual cooperation, understanding, and respect**. The camp program is aimed at **suppressing prejudices and stereotypes**, and we will focus on celebrating culture and traditional crafts. Each participant will be involved in creating the program, we will cook together and participants will be responsible for conducting their own workshops.



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What you should know about ESC Team Volunteering Watermelon Time



- The event will be **in English** (but no worries, we'll all be in this together to help with the translation and support each other)
- The camp is for participants between **18 and 30** years old
- At the end of this experience you will receive a valuable **Youth Pass Certificate**
- **All participants will be involved in the preparation of food and maintaining housekeeping**
- The menu will be **vegan** (but if you like to have a sip of milk, the shop is 3 minutes away from the eco-centre)
- We will reimburse your travel up to your budget based on the distance band - **Green Travel Mandatory** (distance calculator [HERE](#))
- Each participant will be supported with **6eur/day** in the form of pocket money (to be paid on the last day of the activity)

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE RATES (Green travel mandatory)		
Hnuti Brontosaurus		
Distance calculator		
Travel distance	Amount (standard trip)	Amount (Green travel)
Between 0 and 99 km	23 EUR	✗
Between 100 and 499 km	✗	210 EUR
Between 500 and 1999 km	✗	320 EUR
Between 2000 and 2999 km	✗	410 EUR
Between 3000 and 3999 km	✗	610 EUR
Between 4000 and 7999 km	820 EUR	✗
8000 km +	1500 EUR	✗

TIMEFRAME FOR THE ACTIVITIES

Activity period: **July 5 - July 19, 2024** (14 days)

Arrival: **July 4**

Departure: **July 20**

NOTE: The number of travel days depends on the distance from where you will be travelling.

All information will be specified after your selection individually 😊

Please don't purchase tickets before our confirmation.



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Who we are looking for?

- Highly motivated young people aged **18 to 30**
- Country of residence in **one of the EU (ESC)** program countries is a condition (visa at your expense)
- Participants who are ready to **join volunteering activities** and willing to **stay for the entire duration** of the activity
- Participants who want **to contribute to the program** with their activity or **workshop**
- Participants who are not afraid of challenges, are open minded and seeking to meet new people, forge friendships, learn new skills, and create memories



Accommodation

During the whole Watermelon Time Camp we will be staying in the **Kosénka Eco-centre** in a small village in **Valašské Klobouky**. The accommodation is fully equipped: shared sleeping area with mattresses (sleeping bag a necessity), meeting room, separate cosy wooden cabin with amazing stove, two separate toilets, one shower and small kitchen. We will all sleep in one shared room (the sleeping area is gender mixed). For the adventure minded participants, there is a barn in the complex or a garden where you can set up your tent 😊

Despite its size and location, the town of Valašské Klobouky is fully equipped (groceries, restaurants, bus and train stations, some shops) and everything is accessible on foot within 30 minutes from Kosénka.



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Volunteer Work

Working in the local protected area, approximately 10 days,
5-7 hours/day

Our volunteering will mostly consist in **cutting grass in the nearby meadows**. There are several meadows to be mowed, which are scattered around our place. Depending on where a particular meadow is located, it will take on **average 30-60 minutes** to walk there. We might have a car or borrowed bicycles, which might help reduce the commute time, but it's not guaranteed.

We will join **the 44th year of an annual mowing festival** and help the local community to cut grass on nearby meadows. These meadows are mostly inaccessible for agricultural machinery, so it needs to be done manually, in the traditional way. Managing meadows this way might be **more demanding**, but it is also more environmentally friendly and it helps to preserve biodiversity of the region and the "old-school" crafts, tools and skills necessary for the traditional mowing methods. On top of that it's an amazing opportunity for people from all over Czechia (and even from abroad) to come together, help the environment and have a great time!

We will do some or all of the following:

scything - first, grass needs to be cut

raking - then it needs to be spread across the meadow

piling up the grass - then the dried grass needs to be collected in piles

loading the trucks - the piles of grass need to be taken away by trucks or horses

removing non-native saplings from the meadows



Working in the meadows might get quite demanding, especially when the weather is hot. But you will see people of all ages (and fitness levels) who can do it, so you can do it too! All you need is a hat to protect yourself from the sun, a bottle of water, some enthusiasm and team spirit. And of course, to be willing to step out of your comfort zone a bit ;)

Kosénka is the nature conservation organisation based in Valašské Klobouky. It has been taking care of the local forests and meadows for almost 50 years. Thanks to involving locals, professionals, activists, enthusiasts and volunteers like you, they have been able to carefully manage and preserve healthy and biodiverse ecosystems and have managed to maintain a sustainable balance between people and nature, culture and wilderness.



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Non-working program & activities

Since the work and commuting might get **quite challenging**, the rest of the program will not be too physically demanding. We will take it easy and focus on **spending quality time together**. Sharing, having interesting conversations, learning about and from each other, playing games, **getting to know various cultures**, exploring our values and ourselves. We will also welcome if you prepare some short **activity or workshop** for the rest of us.



Except for that, locals will also prepare some program about traditional skills for us, such as **bread baking**, or **weaving loom** workshop.

On top of that we can take **short trips** to the countryside around to discover local forests and nice views from hilltops, or go for a dip in a local swimming pool. Last year we even had a **guided tour** of a famous ecocentre Hostětín full of environmentally friendly technologies and its cider house in the nearby village **Hostětín**.



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APPLY
HERE



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