



Sakala Center Open Youth Center of Viljandi

About Sakala Center and Open Youth Center of Viljandi

Sakala Centre (Sakala Keskus) was opened in September 2012 as a modern community culture centre at the heart of Viljandi. Sakala Centre is operating under Viljandi's municipal government and its primary tasks include organising and developing local cultural life, youth work, pastime activities and creative economy.

The centre provides opportunities for pastime activities and adds to the variety of cultural events in town while being either organiser or mediator. The centre is always open to new ideas and will help to fulfill them when possible.

Sakala Centre is also the manager of Viljandi song festival grounds, the castle hills, Kondas Centre, Viljandi Old Water Tower, Viljandi municipal library and Viljandi Open Youth Centre (VANT). More information found www.sakalakeskus.ee.

Open Youth Centre of Viljandi (VANT) goal is to provide different youth work services and to organise leisure time for young people aged 7-26. In Open Youth Centre's spot young people have possibility to play carom, table tennis, billiard, different boardgames, console games and to use inside extreme hall for skateboarding, BMX and scooter. Also it has a prevention function to avoid violence, alcoholism, smoking and drug addiction among young people. Open Youth Centre of Viljandi is based on the principle of open youth work, which means to support young people's initiative and to create and give them conditions for development. Also we are guided by the common ten Good Customs, which were adopted by the Estonian Open Youth Centres

Union. We cooperate with different organizations in local area such as schools, police, hobby schools, library, local municipality, youth councils, Rajaleidja centre etc.

In the Open Youth Centre of Viljandi there works 5 people - 3 administrators/youth workers, a project manager and a youthwork coordinator.

The Open Youth Centre of Viljandi is opened 6 days a week - on Monday 16.00-21.00 and on Tuesday to Saturday 14.00-21.00. For some more information you may check our Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/ViljandiANT/>.

About volunteering

The volunteer can be involved in every activity in youth center. Of course the volunteer is more than welcome to take initiative and share her/his own ideas for the activities for young people.

The activities for the volunteer in the Open Youth Center of Viljandi are seen as follows:

- *Organising different activities for the young people
- *Helping to prepare and organise different culture and youth events
- *Could lead a workshop, course or event
- *Helping with projects
- *Presenting her/his own country and culture
- *Communicating in foreign language with young people, which would help them to understand the importance of learning languages
- *Assisting youthworker in everyday activities.

This won't be only a learning process for young people and for us as a hosting organisation, but also for the volunteers. First of all the volunteer will learn how to fit in to a totally new community and how to manage the everyday life. The volunteer will learn how to communicate with young people from different age groups and backgrounds. Also will see and would be involved to writing/planning and accomplish different projects. There is possibility to lead/teach any kind of workshop for young people. Also if the volunteer is interested he/she will see how one youth centre is working and how the processes on it would be. One important thing that the volunteer will learn is how to analyse and reflect the work and themselves.

The working day will be around 7 hours, working week will not exceed 35 hours. The volunteer will have 2 days a week off, which is not necessarily on weekend.

We have a coordinating organisation NGO EstYES. EVS Coordinator Piret Helimets has been working in this field for 3 years and in addition had a previous experience as a tutor. She has participated in several trainings and is responsible for ca 15 EVS services each year. Contact: evs@estyee.ee; 6013098.

The volunteer will have a tutor, who will be his/her contact and guiding person through EVS project. There will be regular meetings with volunteer to describe and talk how things are going. The volunteer as a member of the crew will be involved to the staff meetings as well, which are twice a month.

The volunteer will be involved to Sakala Centre activities (Sakala Centre birthday, Christmas dinner etc). Also the volunteer will be involved to our community - as a result of cooperation with different organisations and schools in Viljandi the volunteer might go and visit English lessons and introduce his/her country and European Voluntary Service.

Accommodation for volunteers will be organised by our coordinating organization NGO Noortevahetuse Arengu Ühing ESTYES: the volunteer will live in apartment with convenient transport connectivity to the workplace, each volunteer either in a separate or shared room. Apartment is fully furnished with beds, bedclothes, bath/shower & equipped kitchen.

Food will be prepared by the volunteer at home, money will be provided by our coordinating organisation. In addition, volunteers will be paid a monthly allowance according to EVS financing rules.

The host organisation will ensure:

- 1) that the volunteer work is safe and been assessed for risk;
- 2) that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards;
- 3) that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed;
- 4) that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff.

About Viljandi

Viljandi is the sixth largest town in Estonia with population of 18 257 (Population registry data by 1st of January 2015). Area: 14,6 km². Location: South-Estonia, the uplands of Sakala. It is 161 km from Viljandi to Tallinn and 81 km to Tartu.

Viljandi is an ancient hilly city in South Estonia topped by impressive ruins of a once-powerful Livonian Order castle. Cobbled streets, ancient oak trees and a beautiful lake conjure up a very special atmosphere. A visit to Viljandi means greenery, ancient trees, impressive hilltop ruins of a powerful Hanseatic castle, winding cobbled streets and a beautiful lake. Evidence of civilization around Viljandi dates back to 500 B.C. and the first written record of a “Viljandi stronghold” was in 1154 in the commentaries to al-Idrisi’s world atlas “Geography.” Hanseatic merchants settled in Viljandi in the 14th century - their spirit can still be felt in Viljandi every June. People trade at a fair, dress the way people did in that area, organise exhibitions and party.

For many people Viljandi conjures up images of the Viljandi Folk Music Festival and University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy. This small city is the “capital of folk music” for most Estonians. The Viljandi Folk festival runs for 4 days on the last weekend in July. More than 100 concerts take place in Viljandi castle’s ruins, churches, and other venues throughout Viljandi. It is the largest annual music festival in Estonia. Viljandi not only appeals to folk music and culture lovers but also to people who enjoy parks, where you can hear the nightingale sing, beautiful views and an atmosphere which is both ancient and modern at the same time. Today Viljandi is moving in a rhythm that makes living here an experience in itself. Viljandi is a place where parents walk to school with their children and then go to work themselves. It is a place where people discuss how to improve their community. It is a place where talented individuals can form their ideas into products that bring joy to those who live far beyond our borders.

In Viljandi it is a custom to welcome our visitors with best music, theatre and cuisine. There are not many town of similar size in the world that could boast a professional theatre, several venues that organise regular concerts and entertainment and cafés that rightfully claim to serve the best coffee, food and service compared to anywhere in the world.

In Viljandi both the nightclub-loving party-goer and the midnight chess-match-seeker can find something to do.

Viljandi hosts many events and several international festivals throughout the year. The Early Music Festival, Hanseatic Days, Young Dance Festival, Mulgi Rally, the “Theatre in Suitcase” puppet theatre festival etc. Since 1928, a run around Lake Viljandi has taken place on the first day of May every year.

For more information www.viljandi.ee; <http://www.visitestonia.com/en/holiday-destinations/city-guides/viljandi>.