Call for Volunteers:

Volunteer in Brčko with Svitac

BONA FIDES

STOWARZYSZENIE AKTYWNOŚCI OBYWATELSKIEJ



Where is Brčko?

Brčko is a unique city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country known for its mix of cultures and religions. The country used to be a kingdom and was later ruled by the Ottoman Empire and then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the 20th century, when Yugoslavia split up, Bosnia and Herzegovina became its own country.

What makes Brčko unique?

Brčko is a self-governing administrative unit known as the Brčko District, distinct from both the Republika Srpska and the Federation, the two main entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is also the only official multi-ethnic entity in the country. In Brčko, Croats, who are predominantly Catholic, Bosniaks, who are primarily Muslims, and Serbs, who adhere to the Orthodox Christian faith, coexist harmoniously. This unity, despite religious and ethnic differences, highlights Brcko's uniqueness not only in its administrative status but also in its ability to transcend the historical divisions stemming from the 1990s war.







More about Brčko:

Brčko is located on the banks of the Sava River, across from Croatia. The river serves as a natural border separating the two countries, with a border checkpoint located on the connecting bridge. Brčko is also home to the largest port in Bosnia & Herzegovina, situated on the Sava River.

The town's main pedestrian street is central to most shops and services.

Who are we?

Established in 1998, Svitac's mission is to promote tolerance and unity among the three distinct ethnic groups in post-war Bosnia. In the aftermath of the war, Brčko's unique demographic composition as a multi-ethnic entity provided an ideal backdrop for reconciliatory youth work. Operating as a multi-ethnic youth and arts organisation, Svitac fosters cooperation and understanding among local youth through workshops, festivals, and summer camps which encompass art, music and informal education. Today, the NGO plays a pivotal role in bridging historical divides and contributing to post-conflict recovery and regional development in Brčko.



Meet the team!



Gordana Varcaković
Director of Omladinska Organizacija Svitac



Miloš Popić
Project Officer and Voluntary Service Coordinator



Edina Vošanović
Coordinator of the Youth Centre Activities



Sanjin Vošanović
Music Coordinator and Summer Music Camps Coordinator

Our current staff consists of 4 members who work with a team of local and international volunteers (both short and long term). You can find out more about our people on the SVITAC website.

Why volunteer with Svitac?

*** Youth Engagement ***

Work with youth, leading activities in art, music, sports and languages.

*** Project Administration ***

Support our daily operations, boost project visibility through storytelling (photos, videos and articles), and collaborate with international partners.

*** Cultural Immersion ***

Immerse yourself in Bosnia's rich history, culture, and languages while exploring the local area and enhancing your language skills.

Youth Engagement:

- Support daily activities for pre-schoolers (aged 4-7) encompassing arts and crafts, singing, dancing, stretching, and language learning
- Facilitate engaging discussions and debates on diverse topics for older youth (aged 14+)
- Lead language classes for young people
- Deliver informative presentations to students at local high schools and the university







Project Administration:

Support project visibility

Carry out promotional tasks to enhance project visibility, with a specific emphasis on content creation, including managing social media platforms, capturing photos, editing videos, and producing engaging articles and blog posts.

Collaborate with partner organisations

Compose project proposals and participate in project management.

Administration

Undertake admin tasks to support the work of the NGO.





Cultural Immersion:

- Attend local language classes
- Enjoy Bosnia’s delicious cuisine (Ćevapi, Burek, Sarma and more!)
- Experience Balkan hospitality
- Explore Bosnia and the wider Balkan region





Additional Activities:

Svitac also runs scheduled activities throughout the year for which volunteers assisting with both planning and delivery.

- Anti-Racism Day (March)
- Anti-Fascism Day (November)

- Summer Camp (creative arts, music and languages)

- Halloween Party
- New Year's Party







What can be gained from volunteering:

Develop the following skills:

- Facilitation skills
- Presentation and public speaking skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Creative skills
- Photography and video editing skills
- Report writing skills
- Cross-cultural competence

Acquire experience in:

- Working with young people
- Workshop facilitation
- Language teaching
- Content creation
- Project management
- Proposal writing
- Collaborating with international partners

Volunteers have the option to be involved in a variety of tasks. Skills and experience to be developed will be dependent on the interests of the volunteer.

Volunteer profile:

We do not require volunteers to be professionals or hold formal qualifications however it is important that the volunteer is able to communicate in English to a reasonable standard in order to work successfully with the team as well as engage with our activities. An advanced level of English is needed to carry out tasks involving project administration.

Although we do not require volunteers to bring with them a particular skillset, we are keen to engage with interested individuals who have expertise in music, dance, art, sport and language teaching as these are our core areas of focus. For those interested in undertaking project administration tasks, having expertise in content creation, marketing and report writing etc. is considered to be a valuable asset.

What qualities do we look for?

- Motivated to undertake a volunteer placement
- Able to adapt to unfamiliar environments
- Interested in getting to know a different culture
- Willingness to learn and develop skillset
- Enjoy working with children
- Capable of working with different age groups

** All volunteers must be in possession of a clean criminal record check before starting their placement.

Volunteer accommodation:

Svitac’s volunteers live in a shared apartment or house which is rented by Svitac. Normally accommodation is shared between 2-3 volunteers with each volunteer having their own private bedroom and sharing the bathroom, kitchen and living space. Bedsheets and towels are provided.

Things to do in Brčko:

What does Brcko have?

- strong coffee culture
- restaurants and bars
- outdoor sports facilities
- bowling alley
- arcade
- parks and green spaces

Feel part of a community:
As a volunteer you will meet other young people in Brčko through working alongside local and international volunteers at the youth centre. You can also get involved in sports clubs, samba sessions and other community groups providing you with additional opportunities to grow your network.

Experience treble the celebrations and festivities:
Owing to its unique status as Bosnia's only multi-ethnic entity, the city has an abundance of religious celebrations and festivals, reflecting the presence of the different religious groups within the community (catholics, orthodox Christians and Muslims).

Day trips from Brčko:

On the weekends you could visit the following;



Gradačac



Etno Selo Stanišići



Tršić



Etno Selo Sunčana Reka

Explore Bosnia and wider Balkan region:



Discover Bosnia's beautiful cities

Sarajevo, Mostar and Jajce

Uncover Bosnia's natural beauty

Kravica Waterfall

Una National Park

Tara River Canyon

Explore the wider Balkan region

3 hours to Novi Sad

3.5 hours to Belgrade

4 hours to Zagreb

Volunteer Testimonials:

“I have really enjoyed my time in Brčko and developed my skillset. It was very interesting to learn more about Bosnia, support the peace building efforts and assist with various administration tasks. I hope more young people from the UK can benefit from this opportunity and come to Brčko through the Turing Scheme.”

- Noama, 23

(ESC volunteer, UK)



“Brčko is the perfect place for a voluntary year. The community is very welcoming and right away I got the opportunity to get active. The possibilities to travel seem endless. I would for example recommend visiting Sarajevo and Banja Luka.”

- Jonathan, 18

(Weltwärts volunteer, Germany)



Find out more!

Website: https://svitac.org/

Email: info@svitac.org

 https://www.facebook.com/omladinska.svitac

 omladinska.svitac

SVITAC, with its strong network of partnerships, has extensive experience in youth programs and volunteer exchanges.

Join us today and be a part of our mission!










D-LOAD


SVITAC
SUMMER PICNIC BASKET


How many people live in Germany?



