



Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in being a volunteer at Houens Odde International Scout Centre in Denmark.

Houens Odde International Scout Centre is owned by the Danish scout organization: KFUM-Spejderne i Danmark. The centre is situated on a peninsula of 87 ha land, surrounded by forest, field and water.

The closest city is Kolding, which is 7 km away from the centre. The habitants of Kolding is 70,000 people. There is a train station with connections to whole Denmark and most of Europe. In Kolding, you find all kinds of shops, supermarkets, cinemas, museums and cultural events. The closest airport is Billund airport.

Houens Odde International Scout Centre is the main education and training centre of KFUM-spejderne i Danmark. A staff of permanent employees together with Danish and international volunteers run the centre. This staff takes care of the daily work at the centre.

The centre also has around 120 Danish voluntary scouts from all scout organizations in Denmark. This staff is called the Houmen, and they are arranging scout activities at the centre, like summer camps, work camps, and other scout events, that take place during weekends and holidays.



Houens Odde Spejdercenter – ..the International Scout Centre in Denmark

The History

Houens Odde Spejdercenter is one of the largest scout centres in Northern Europe and is situated on a beautiful wooded peninsula on the Kolding Inlet. When the ice withdrew after the last glacial age, it left the area around Houens Odde almost as it is today. The land has risen and is not just small islands anymore, but one peninsula. The first sign of man at Houens Odde has been found in kitchen mitten, which can be dated about 5000 years back in time.

For many years, Kolding was a frontier and royal town. In the middle of Kolding is Koldinghus, an excellent tourist sight. In the year 1260, the Danish king build this castle to guard the boundary of the kingdom of Denmark. In the 15th century, the castle was rebuilt as a palace, and in the 17th century, the Danish king Christian IV spent many years at Koldinghus. Among other things, he considered building a fortification at Houens Odde. However, some of his wise men advised him not to, because of the shallow water around the peninsula. Fortunately, he built this fortification in Fredericia instead, about 15 km from Houens Odde.

The Present

Houens Odde Spejdercenter has been working with children and youth for the last 50 years, and through this time, we have constantly tried to develop our activities for this group. For the last 20 years, it has been with a priority on international understanding and meeting between people from different cultures and countries.

One of our main priorities is to educate through activities – and the main activities are nature and environment.

The guests at the centre are scouts, schools and kinder gardens. Our primary target group is children in the age from 8 to 16. The centre has each year around 30.000 overnights on this account. The scouts mainly come during the summer holidays.



Our secondary activity is outsourcing activities and facilities to companies for training. We also accommodate bedding and restaurant for the companies, and make teambuilding activities. The companies mainly come during the week. There are around 10.000 overnights for these activities.

Volunteering:

How to be a volunteer:

At Houens Odde Spejdercenter, you can choose between different ways of being a volunteer, depending on how long you want to stay. To become a volunteer you need to stay for at minimum 4 weeks.

Short-time volunteer:

If you are a scout, you can stay from 4 weeks and up till 3 months. If you choose to stay for only 4 weeks, these weeks have to be during our summer period, where our centre camps take place. This is mainly to that, you have the chance be a part of a Danish voluntary staff, that runs scout activities. During your stay, we pay for your food and lodging. If you want to know more about the European Scout Voluntary Programme, contact the centre office: houensodde@houensodde.dk or look at <http://rovernet.eu/site/european-scout-voluntary-programme/>

Long-time volunteer:

Here you can stay from more than 2 months and up till 1 year. During your stay, we will pay for your food and lodging, and pocket money every month. You will also get the possibility to join a Danish language class. If you are a scout and outside of Europe, you are participating in the European Scout Voluntary Programme. If you are from Europe, Tunisia, or the Caucasus countries you can participate in the European Solidarity Corps programme, supported by the EU. If you want to know more about the European Solidarity Corps programme please contact the centre office: houensodde@houensodde.dk or look at https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps_en

**Facilities:**

If you are a short term volunteer for 4 weeks, and being a part of our centre camp staff, you will be staying at the Activity centre. This is the centre where all the activities are concentrated. You will be eating and sleeping in the dormitories together with the Danish and international voluntary staff.

If you are staying for more than 4 weeks at the centre, you will get your own room in the volunteer apartment. Here there are 6 rooms, so if you are more than 6 people you might have to share a room. In the apartment, you have your own room, and you share the living room and kitchen with the other volunteers. If you have a driver's licence there is also the possibility of lending the cars of the centre in your free time.

Economy:

The voluntary staff receives free lodging, and daily supplies are bought on the centre's account in different shops. Shopping and cooking is your own responsibility. If you stay longer than 3 months, you will receive a monthly amount of pocket money. Are you not a part of the ESC, you will have to pay your own ticket and an insurance that covers you in your free time during your stay. Are you a part of the ESC, you will have a sending organisation that helps you with buying a ticket, and drawing an insurance that covers you during your stay.

Sightseeing:

As a 4 week short-term volunteer it is up to the camp leader when and if you can be off. But we try to plan it so that you will 1 day of per week. During your days off, we will encourage you to go a little sightseeing in Denmark.

For other volunteers it will, of course, also be possible to have some days of and go sightseeing in Denmark. The days off will be planned together with you and the centre office.

**Work Description:**

Jobs for 4 weeks volunteers (and other volunteers), during the centre camp period: Often the centre camps start in the end of June and ends in the middle of August. During these weeks you will be a member of the Danish and international voluntary Houmen staff. This staff takes care of different activities for the scout groups, who are on the centre camp. The functions can be: sailing activities, old Danish handicraft activities, help planning the different activities of the week, working in the tractor team, or cooking for the staff.

During the 4 weeks of summer camp, Houens Odde often have from between 400-600 scouts per week. For more information look at:
<http://houensoddespejdercenter.dk/en/summer-camps/>

As a volunteer outside the centre camp season, you will be a part of a staff mixed between volunteers (6 volunteers) and permanent staff (8 staff members). The work of the centre will be coordinated once a week on the staff meeting.

Some of the things will be more routine work than others. – But the staff's most important task is to provide good experiences, quality activities, and good service to our guests.

Jobs for volunteers, outside the centre camp period, are many and different.

The jobs at the centre are divided into:

- Daily jobs
- Monthly jobs
- Ad hoc jobs
- Volunteer project

The daily jobs need to be done every day, and they can be:

- garbage round



- toilet check and cleaning
- buying food for the office canteen
- deliver drinks to the guest canteens

The monthly jobs need to be done, depending on the season, once or twice a month. They can be:

- building checks
- checking and cleaning tractors/cars
- grass cutting
- cleaning different workshops

The ad hoc jobs are very different. They come day by day, hour by hour. Some can be planned; others are not possible to plan. They can be:

- doing activities for our costumers (scouts, school groups, kinder gardens, companies)
- kitchen duties (cooking, cleaning, dish washing)
- helping janitor with different maintenance job at the centre
- putting up tents for costumers
- participating as a staff member in our scout summer camps or other scout events
- participating in different volunteer arrangements together with our Danish scout volunteers

The Volunteer Project

As a volunteer, you also have the possibility of making your own project. This is a very good chance for the volunteer to make something that reflects his/hers interests and skills. The project must be for the use and fun of the costumers at the centre. We prefer that the project is for the benefit of nature and environment of our centre. The project must also make our costumers aware of the ESC and the international outlet of the centre.

Most days will start 9 and end at 15. Then there will be kitchen duties some evenings and sometimes there will be late activities during the week and during the weekend.



Preparations before the Stay

Requirements:

For scout volunteers, outside Europe:

To become a member of the Houens Odde Voluntary Staff you have to be between 18 and 28 years old. As a scout volunteer, you need to be a member of an acknowledged association under either the WOSM or the WAGGGS. This must be confirmed at district and national level. You must be able to speak and carry out activities in English. We would like you to be independent and ready to make decisions on your own, be ready and open for new impressions, tasks and to make friendships across countries/cultures. It is an advantage, if you have a driver's license, since many tasks demands assistance of tractors and other vehicles, and public transport to the city is infrequent.

For scouts or non-scouts, inside Europe:

If you are a volunteer for more than 2 months, you will be a volunteer through the European Solidarity Corps programme (ESC). This means that you need a sending organisation that helps and assists you with applying. As a part of the ESC, you get many benefits: your travel ticket paid, your insurance paid, pocket money, Danish language school etc. The application process is, however, very long, so you need to apply at least 6 months before you want to start. Moreover, it is only possible for the centre to apply EU 3 times a year. If you are in doubt, if it will be possible for you to apply, you are welcome to send a mail to houensodde@houensodde.dk

**Visa:**

For some countries, you need a permission to enter Denmark. Normally the process can take up till 3 months, depending on which country you apply from. When you are working in Denmark as a volunteer, you can not apply for. Before you apply, please contact the centre office, since you need the correct application paper, a letter of invitation and letter of insurance from the centre. If you have less than 3 months till you are coming to the centre, we will help you with applying for the work and resident permit, when you have arrived at the centre. And then you need to apply for visa. Please contact the office for information before you apply, since it is important that it is done the right way from the start, or you will not be accepted.

Application:

If you want to apply for being a volunteer at our centre, we need your CV and motivation letter, and the period that you are interested in being a volunteer. If you are applying as a scout volunteer, we also need you to fill out "the Application for Houens Odde Voluntary Staff". Here we need the signature of your scout organisation together with a letter of Good Standing or a criminal record from the police. If you are applying through the ESC system, we need a criminal record certificate from you.

Before the final decision is made, we will contact the volunteer candidates for making a small interview on Skype. After the interview, we make the final decision, and the candidates will get our decision by mail.

Transport:

The centre is close to the city of Kolding. The closest train station is in Kolding and the closest airport in Billund. So, you can take a plane to Billund or a plane to Copenhagen, and then a train to Kolding.



Insurance:

You are insured through the Danish working and accident insurance of the centre, during your workday. As a non-ESC volunteer, you need to have a personal insurance that covers your health, accident and free time. For ESC volunteers your sending organisation will draw an insurance that covers you during your stay. If you here for more than 3 months we will also sign you up for the Danish health insurance (the Danish yellow card) that will cover you, if you have to go to the doctor or hospital. It can take up till 3 months to get this in order.

What to bring:

Denmark is a country with very changing weather. Wind and rain is not unusual in the summer, and snow falls every winter. Therefore, warm sweaters and rain clothes are a necessity. However, in the summer it can also be up till 28 degrees, so the sun also invites to shorts and T-shirts. If you have been accepted as a volunteer, the centre will send you a list of what is good to bring for your stay.

Details of Houens Odde:

Houens Odde International Scout Centre
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www.houensodde.dk

Volunteer at Houens Odde International Scout Centre on Facebook

Houens Odde Kursuscenter on Facebook

Houens Odde Spejdercenter on Facebook

