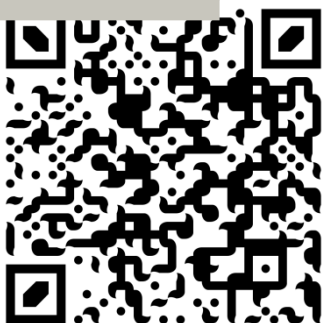




**Youth Volunteer Organization
Leadership**



About Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan is a Central Asian country with a population of more than 5 million people. Covering an area of 198,500 sq km, it borders Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Western China's Xinjiang Province. The capital of the country is Bishkek. About 94% of Kyrgyzstan is mountainous with an average elevation of 2,750 m. The country is known for its natural beauty and its picturesque scenery. There are numerous alpine lakes; the most famous in the country are Issyk-Kul 170km long and 70km wide. It is the second-largest alpine lake in the world. Other alpine lakes in the country include Song-Köl, Ala-Köl, and Sary-Chelek.

Kyrgyzstan is a country of contrasts. There are endless mountain ranges covered with eternal snows, vibrant colored alpine meadows, rugged rivers, and calm blue lakes. The country is rich in cultural and historical heritage at the heart of the Central Asian steppes. The smell of wormwood, views of jagged rock formations, deep glaciers, and emerald green valleys make Kyrgyzstan a dreamy reality. Kyrgyzstan is on the ancient Silk Road trading route; it offers many opportunities to explore Islamic culture and Muslim traditions.

Program Location



Our volunteer programs are located in the northeastern region of Kyrgyzstan, in the town of Karakol. The town is the administrative center of the Issyk-Kul Oblast. The town is a base for exploring the central Tien Shan Mountain range and Karakol is situated near the pearl of the country – Issyk-Kul Lake. The lake is at the bottom of a deep tectonic hollow, with an elevation of 1610 m above sea level. From all directions, the Teskey and KungeyAla-Too mountain peaks surround the lake. Snow-capped year-round, some of these mountains reach elevations of more than 5000 meters. Eighty rivers feed the lake with crystal-clear water. The climate around the lake is more moderate than the rest of the country, there is no exhausting heat or deep frost; the average air temperature in the summer months is 23-26 degrees Celsius. The water warms to comfortable 20-22 degrees Celsius in the summer. On the Coast of Issyk-Kul Lake are petroglyphic figures dated to the second millennium BC.

Karakol offers numerous leisure activities. The local historical museum, the countless treks that lay just south of the city itself, and the Jety-Oguz Gorge, known for its beautifully shaped red rocks are just a few of the attractions. Every region of Issyk-Kul Oblast is enticing to the visitor. Boomsk Gorge begins at the gates to Issyk-Kul; here it is possible to raft the rugged Chui River finishing at one of the most remote parts of the area. There you can admire Engelchek Glacier, and the peaks of Khan Tengri and Pobeda Mountains, known for their high elevations.

For more information about the city, please, visit the following websites:

- History of the city <https://goo.gl/s7Mhsm>
- Karakol- architectural heritage <https://goo.gl/TNFUK7>
- Karakol – Education Center <https://goo.gl/oZtnD4>
- People of the city Karakol <https://goo.gl/7z8ru2>
- Karakol yesterday and today <https://goo.gl/aP1eBg>

About Youth Volunteer Organization “Leadership”

Leadership was founded on November 1, 2005, as a youth volunteer organization under the auspices of the public association *Leader*, a center of civic society initiatives. *Leadership* is a non-profit organization bringing together young volunteers with the mission of involving youth in civil society through volunteerism, project design, and cooperation both locally and internationally.

Our Mission: To involve youth in civil society through volunteerism in cooperation with local and international volunteer projects.

The goal of Work Camps: To promote the volunteer movement in Kyrgyzstan through local and international work camp exchanges. The program encourages youth to play an active role in varied social spheres, to develop an appreciation for international cooperative teamwork, to enrich outlooks, and to provide the opportunity for intercultural exchange.

The program activities are threefold:

1. International Volunteer Work Camps – local volunteers visit camps in Europe & Asia.
2. Local Work Camps – *Leadership* hosts local work camps with international participants.
3. Mid and Long-Term Volunteer Exchanges – local non-governmental organizations in need of professional exchange involve international volunteers in their activities.

The Alumni Association works to keep former work camp participants in touch with *Leadership* and other international volunteers and to keep them informed about developments of the projects they took part in. Alumni Association benefits include a 10% discount from the participation fee if a volunteer participates in work camps at *Leadership* for a second time.

Leadership is a member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations.

With the support of our partners, *Leadership* has been able to:

- Participate in Technical Meetings in Belgium in 2006, Turkey in 2007, 2014, and Russia in 2017;
- Host 17 local work camps from 2006 till 2022 with 458 international volunteers, 16 Peace Corps volunteers, and more than 300 local volunteers;
- Send 49 volunteers to international work camps abroad;
- Accept 458 international volunteers for mid and long term volunteer programs between 2006 and 2022;
- Initiate the Local Alumni Association.

This year's work camps will involve the fields of *ecology, eco-friendly tourism, and working with orphans and disabled children*. The projects will provide a valuable contribution to the social and economic development of life in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan.

#	Location	Code/Name	Types	Duration	Dates	#of vols
Mid and Long Term Camps						
1	Leadership, Karakol	LSM-01 Leadership	NGO/Social	From 1 Month+	Open Dates	1+
2	Children's Family, Ak-Bulun village	LSM-08 Merim Bulagy	Kids/Teaching	From 1 Month+	Open Dates	1+
3	Inclusive kindergarten Kiyal Kechter, Ak-Suu Village	LSM – 10 Kiyal Kechter	Kids/Disabled	From 1 Month+	Open Dates	1+
4	“Hand in Hand”, Przhevalsky	LSM – 12 Hand in Hand	Kids/Disabled	From 1 Month+	Open Dates	1+
Short Term Work Camps						
1	Ak-Suu Nursery Forest, Ak-Suu Village	LS-04 Nursery Forest	Environment/ Forest	2 Weeks	July 28 – August 10	10
2	Inclusive kindergarten Kiyal Kechter, Ak-Suu Village	LS-06 Kiyal Kechter	Kids/Disabled center	2 Weeks	July 28 – August 10	7
3	“Hand in Hand”, Przhevalsky	LS – 12 Hand in Hand	Kids/Disabled	2 Weeks	June 27 – July 10	7
4	«Tom Sawyer Fest» Karakol	LS-13 Tom Sawyer Fest	Renovation	2 Weeks	June 27 – July 10	15

Mid and Long-Term Volunteering Programs

General Information

The program invites young and mid-year professionals to volunteer in one of our partner organizations to transfer skills and knowledge on organizational development, planning, project writing, PRing, and other organizational processes. You will serve as a team member and be able to contribute to the development of the organization. The organizations always welcome new ideas and approaches which might help their organizations grow and improve their activities.

Program Requirements

Language: Though the working language of international volunteers is English, at least basic knowledge of Russian is recommended to communicate efficiently with local volunteers and staff members of the organization. Beginner's Russian/Kyrgyz language lessons are provided in the participation fee. Knowledge of other world languages is welcome; this will enable you to hold language courses with local volunteers and other youth in Karakol.

Other skills: To participate in the program you are expected to have past experience with volunteer work, working as a part of a team, and depending on which project, working with teenagers. For certain projects, it is recommended to bring literature and CDs with language teaching programs. We also expect you to be motivated and to actively participate in your own program's implementation and evaluation process.

Duration of the Program and Your Schedule

To be admitted you must be able to participate for at least one month while the maximum period of involvement is one year. Your work will range from 6 to 8 hours per day, depending on a mutual agreement and the needs of the host organization. Normally volunteers work Monday through Friday, though special events and activities sometimes require their presence during weekends.

Program Costs

The costs of the program are as follows:

- Cost for 1 month: 250 EUR.
- Cost for 3 months: 700 EUR
- Cost for 6 months: 1400 EUR.
- Cost for one year: 2500 EUR.

!!! The program fee **COVERS** administrative charges, accommodation and food (provided by a host family), pre-departure preparation assistance, beginner's Russian/Kyrgyz language classes, and 24-hour support and guidance from professionals, locally based in Kyrgyzstan. If you need a guided transfer from the Bishkek Airport to Karakol (approximately a five-hour drive), an additional 50 EUR will be charged.

!!! The program fee **DOES NOT** cover your roundtrip flight to Kyrgyzstan. Your visa, medical and travel insurance, airport departure taxes, and travel expenses during your stay in Karakol (if not directly connected to the volunteer work) are your responsibility. Costs of personal Internet time and phone calls are also the responsibility of the volunteer.

Application process

Please, contact us so that we can send you an application form. After receiving your completed application we will inform you within 10 days whether you have been accepted.

About Youth Volunteer Organization “Leadership”: *Leadership* is a non-profit organization bringing together young volunteers with the mission of involving youth in civil society through volunteerism, project design, and cooperation both locally and internationally. *Leadership* was founded on November 1, 2005, as a youth volunteer organization under the auspices of the public association *Leader*, a center of civic society initiatives.

Accommodation: You will live with a local host family; they will provide you with your room and all the necessary conveniences. You will join your host family for breakfast and dinner while lunch will be provided at the office with other members of *Leadership*.

Desirable Skills:

- Website design
- Accounting
- Public Relations
- Media

You will be able to work in the following sphere of activities:

- Assist in the coordination of our youth volunteer and the organization of regular meetings as well as motivation and team-building activities.
- Participate in the organization and implementation of various events.
- Plan and implement short-term international volunteer projects and summer camps together with the program coordinator.
- Get involved in fundraising activities.
- Actively participate in our current projects.
- Hold language courses and discussion clubs.
- Create any PR materials for our organization: possibilities include booklets, mini clips, photo exhibitions, etc.

Accommodation: Volunteers will live with a local host family; they will provide a private room and all the necessary conveniences. You will join your host family for breakfast and dinner while lunch will be provided at the office with other members of the *Leadership*.

About Children's Family / Orphanage in Ak-Bulun village: Meerim Bulagy Orphanage is located in Issyk-Kul Oblast, in Ak-Bulun village. Family Orphanage is a governmental property and currently cares for 15 children, aged 4 to 18. Children speak the Kyrgyz language and study at secondary schools in the village. The children have many opportunities to participate in different kinds of activities at the orphanage such as dressmaking classes, drawing and dancing classes, sports clubs, computer clubs. The orphanage staff is 18. They have good experience working with international volunteers. Each year they host up to 3-4 international guests.

Mission: Organize children’s leisure time through conducting games, sports competitions, dance classes, and English language lessons.

Participate in daily orphanage activities and spend leisure time with the children.

Note: We welcome all volunteers who are enthusiastic, creative, and motivated to work with orphan children. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted during the camp or at the accommodation venues. Smoking is not allowed while volunteers are with children.

Accommodation: The volunteer will live with a local family, which will provide the volunteer with their room and all the necessary conveniences. You will join your host family for breakfast and dinner; lunch will be provided at the office together with other members of the Children's Family

LSM-10 Inclusive Kindergarten Kiyal Kechter Karakol city 18+

About Kindergarten Kiyal Kechter: Inclusive kindergarten is located in Issyk-Kul Oblast, in Ak-Suu village was established to create a stable base for the support of the children with disabilities and their families in all areas of life. In the organization are conducted classes before school program individually with each child, as well as educational classes and clubs by interests (origami, sewing, painting, etc.). Children speak Kyrgyz and Russian languages. They have good experience working with international volunteers. Each year they host up to 3-4 international guests. The Inclusive kindergarten Kiyal Kechter implements activities in several directions:

- Providing rehabilitation services to children with disabilities;
- Providing access to education;
- Engaging and activating parental initiatives;
- Reducing stigma and the involvement of children with disabilities in the activities of the local community.
- Project Goals
- Organize children's leisure time through conducting games, sports competitions, dance classes, and English language lessons.
- Participate in daily kinder garden activities and spend leisure time with the children

Volunteer's Role:

We need a volunteer in the direction of institutional development.

1. Knowledge of Russian or Kyrgyz language.
2. Have the appropriate education or experience in this area.
3. Have the intention to serve and work as a volunteer at least 2 years
4. Age not younger than 18 years
5. Gender, ethnicity, and religion do not matter.

Accommodation: The volunteer will live with a local family, which will provide the volunteer with their room and all the necessary conveniences. You will join your host family for breakfast and dinner; lunch will be provided at the office together with other members of Inclusive Kindergarten Kiyal Kechter.

Note: A volunteer is requested to have basic skills working with disabled people, as well as basic Russian or Kyrgyz language skills. New methods/approaches are always welcomed.

LSM-12 Hand in Hand Karakol city 18+

About "Hand in Hand": The Karakol branch of Centre "Hand in Hand" was opened in 2018. It is located 15 km from Karakol on Przhevalsky Bay. Children can spend full days at the center. The purpose of the Society of Parents of Children with Autism is to provide consultations and legal, informational, organizational, methodological, and material support to children with autism and their families. They aim for the social integration of kids with autism and lobby to protect the rights and legitimate interests of people living with autism, to ensure an equal footing with other citizens. The basic principles of the Centre's activities are equality, protecting human rights, and involving parents. The bulk of the center's employees are mothers of children who visit it. These women are highly motivated to improve the lives of their children.

Volunteer's Role:

- You are required to have basic skills working with disabled people, as well as basic Russian or Kyrgyz language skills.
- New methods/approaches are always welcomed!
- Participate in the organization and implementation of various events.

Accommodation: The volunteer will live with a local family, which will provide the volunteer with their room and all the necessary conveniences. You will join your host family for breakfast and dinner; lunch will be provided at the office together with other members of Center

Note: Volunteers psychologists, therapists are welcome. The work is aimed at working with children and supporting children during classes.

You are expected to have past experience with volunteer work, working as a part of a team.

Basic knowledge of Russian or the Kyrgyz language is necessary.

Short-Term Work Camps

LS-04 Ak-Suu Nursery Forest ENVIRONMENT/FOREST 10 VOLs 17+

“Save the Planet”

About Ak-Suu Nursery Forest: The Ak-Suu Nursery Forest was founded in 1949 and is situated in Ak-Suu Village, 15 km from Karakol. It is unique because it is the only organization of its kind in Kyrgyzstan. Ak-Su Nursery Forest covers 1529 hectares of the landscape. Each year they plant trees, care for young seedlings, and protect the soil. One of the main goals of the nursery is the cultivation of non-native crops. There are 120 kinds of bushes and trees, 111 of which are non-native, 33 kinds of birches, and several kinds of pine, acacia, and maple in the territory of the nursery. An arboretum was also founded there, where rare and unique plants growing in the territory of Kyrgyzstan and beyond the borders of the country are collected. All studies and work at the nursery are under observation from the Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyz Republic. Currently, work is underway on the acclimatization of beech, common eastern hemlock, and European hornbeam trees.

Project goals: Maintain nursery by caring for young trees (watering, weeding, trimming, etc)

Work: During this 2-week camp, volunteers will take care of young trees (seedlings), water, weed, and trim the area of the nursery.

Weekend Excursion: On the weekend volunteers will have an opportunity to visit Karakol town and see its sightseeing. Another option would be to hike up to the nearby Altyn Arashan health resort where you can enjoy natural hot springs. For more information about the above locations and Kyrgyzstan please visit www.welcome.kg or www.Karakol.kg

Meeting point: Karakol, Office of *Leadership*, 138 Lenin St. (crossroad: Koenkozova St). Travel cost from the airport to the meeting point is not reimbursed. Extra assistance with travel can be provided upon request.

Location: The camp will be held in Ak-Suu (Teploklyuchenka on Google Maps) is situated 20 minutes from Karakol – the Issyk-Kul Oblast center. Ak-Su region is one of the region’s oldest districts, full of hot springs for health and leisure. Surrounded by mountains, this location is very picturesque.

meeting point: Office of Leadership, Karakol, 138 Lenin St. (crossroad: Koenkozova St).

Language: In English, there will be a camp leader who will interpret and help in all ways of communication.

Accommodation: Basic cabins with shared rooms with beds. Volunteers should bring their sleeping bags. Volunteers will bathe in bathhouses 2 times per week at a former Soviet resort in Ak-Suu.

Food: Cooking will be done by volunteers in the kitchen with all necessary utilities provided.

Group: Mixed, composed of international volunteers and 1 camp leader, and local volunteers. Participants will manage the working hours and free time activities with the local camp leaders. Decisions will be made through group discussion.

Note: We welcome all volunteers who are enthusiastic, creative, and motivated to work with orphan children. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted during the camp or at the accommodation venues. Smoking is not allowed while volunteers are with children.

Insurance: Volunteers should come with their health and accident insurance.

Bring: A more detailed packing list will be sent after applying, a basic list includes: own medicine, backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, raingear, warm clothes, comfortable shoes for hiking, a swimsuit, sunscreen, insect repellent (much of the time will be spent on the lakeshore), a torch/flashlight, your national recipes, music, songs, games, energy, and a good mood!

Participation fee: 180 Euro should be paid upon arrival. The participation fee covers accommodation, food, transportation, recreation, and organizational costs.

LS-06 INCLUSIVE KINDERGARTEN DISA/KIDS/TEACHING 10 VOLs 17+

“Happy Sun”

About Inclusive kindergarten Kiyal Kechter: Inclusive kindergarten is located in Issyk-Kul Oblast, in Teplokluchenko village. The creation of a stable base to support children with disabilities and their families in all areas of life. In the organization are conducted classes before school program individually with each child, as well as educational classes and clubs by interests (origami, sewing, painting, etc.). Children speak Kyrgyz and Russian languages. They have good experience working with international volunteers. Each year they host up to 3-4 international guests.

The Inclusive kindergarten Kiyal Kechter implement activities in several directions:

1. Providing rehabilitation services to children with disabilities;
2. Providing access to education;
3. Engaging and activating parental initiatives;
4. Reducing stigma and the involvement of children with disabilities in the activities of the local community.

Project goals:

- Organize children’s leisure time through conducting games, sports competitions, dance classes, and English language lessons.
- Participate in daily kinder garden activities and spend leisure time with the children.

Work: During the project, volunteers will conduct English training, various games, and sporting events with children in their leisure time. Volunteers with children will also organize basic environment training.

Weekend Excursion: On the weekend volunteers will have an opportunity to visit Karakol town and see its sightseeing. Another option would be to hike up to the nearby Altyn Arashan health resort where you can enjoy natural hot springs. For more information about the above locations and Kyrgyzstan please visit www.welcome.kg or www.Karakol.kg

Meeting point: Karakol, Office of *Leadership*, 138 Lenin St. (crossroad: Koenkozova St). Travel cost from the airport to the meeting point is not reimbursed. Extra assistance with travel can be provided upon request.

Location: The camp will be held in Ak-Suu village, about 20 minutes from Karakol.

Language: In English, there will be a camp leader who will interpret and help in all ways of communication.

Accommodation: Volunteers will live with a nearby host family. Volunteers can bring their sleeping bags and mats for excursions.

Food: Cooking will be done by a host family, volunteers can join and help the host family. For the weekend excursion, volunteers are requested to take a personal plate and utensil set for the trek, cooking will be done as a group.

Group: Mixed, composed of international volunteers and 1 camp leader, and local volunteers; orphanage kids are not official members of the volunteer team, but play an integral role in the project. Participants will manage the working hours and free time activities with the local camp leaders. Decisions will be made through group discussion.

Note: We welcome all volunteers who are enthusiastic, creative, and motivated to work with orphan children. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted during the camp or at the accommodation venues. Smoking is not allowed while volunteers are with children.

Insurance: Volunteers should come with their health and accident insurance.

Bring: A more detailed packing list will be sent after applying, a basic list includes: own medicine, backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, raingear, warm clothes, comfortable shoes for hiking, a swimsuit, sunscreen, insect repellent (much of the time will be spent on the lakeshore), a torch/flashlight, your national recipes, music, songs, games, energy, and a good mood!

Participation fee: 180 Euro should be paid upon arrival. The participation fee covers accommodation, food, transportation, recreation, and organizational costs.

LS-12 Hand in Hand DISA/KIDS/TEACHING 10 VOLs 17+

«Hand in Hand»

About “Hand in Hand”: The Karakol branch of Centre "Hand in Hand" was opened in 2018. It is located 15 km from Karakol on Przhivalsky Bay. Children can spend full days at the center. The purpose of the Society of Parents of Children with Autism is to provide consultations and legal, informational, organizational, methodological, and material support to children with autism and their families. They aim for the social integration of kids with autism and lobby to protect the rights and legitimate interests of people living with autism, to ensure an equal footing with other citizens. The basic principles of the Centre’s activities are equality, protecting human rights, and involving parents. The bulk of the center’s employees are mothers of children who visit it. These women are highly motivated to improve the lives of their children.

Volunteer’s Role: You will be able to work in the following sphere of activities:

- Participate in the organization of various activities/programs (music, photography, art, etc.) with handicapped people including children and the elderly
- Hold development activities
- Take part in meetings with disabled children’s parents
- Have skills to work with mentally and disabled kids

Project goals:

- Organize children’s leisure time through conducting games, sports competitions, dance classes.
- Participate in daily kinder garden activities and spend leisure time with the children.

Work: During the project, volunteers will participate in the organization of various activities/programs (music, photography, art, etc.) with handicapped people including children and the elderly.

Weekend Excursion: On the weekend volunteers will have an opportunity to visit Karakol town and see its sightseeing. Another option would be to hike up to the nearby Altyn Arashan health resort where you can enjoy natural hot springs. For more information about the above locations and Kyrgyzstan please visit www.welcome.kg or www.Karakol.kg

Meeting point: Karakol, Office of *Leadership*, 138 Lenin St. (crossroad: Koenkozova St). Travel cost from the airport to the meeting point is not reimbursed. Extra assistance with travel can be provided upon request.

Language: In English, there will be a camp leader who will interpret and help in all ways of communication.

Accommodation: Volunteers will live with a nearby host family. Volunteers can bring their sleeping bags and mats for excursions.

Food: Cooking will be done by a host family, volunteers can join and help the host family. For the weekend excursion, volunteers are requested to take a personal plate and utensil set for the trek, cooking will be done as a group.

Note: Volunteers psychologists, therapists are welcome. The work is aimed at working with children and supporting children during classes.

You are expected to have past experience with volunteer work, working as a part of a team.

Participation fee: 180 Euro should be paid upon arrival. The participation fee covers accommodation, food, transportation, recreation, and organizational costs.

LS-13 Tom Sawyer Fest RENO/FEST 15 VOLs 17+

“Renovation”

About Tom Sawyer Fest: Now the global urban development planned a positive trend to preserve the scale and harmonious silhouette of the historical part of town where prohibited any point construction or reconstruction of an old building without preserving its pristine appearance.

"Tom Sawyer Fest" - the first festival in Karakol, which is dedicated to the restoration of the historical environment, namely, the construction of a specific building belonging to the 19th century "Weight House". By international and local volunteers at the expense of sponsors.

Recreation of the "Weight House" with local and international volunteers is a big step towards preserving the architectural and historical appearance of the city.

Project goals:

- restoration of the historical environment of the city by volunteers
- popularization of historical heritage and its preservation among foreign tourists and locals.
- to increase town's attractiveness for the foreign tourist and locals, show its richness of the culture and nationalities
- to create and promote town's branding and identity

Work: Volunteers will work on the construction of the "Weight House", assembling and building it from wooden and carved parts, which will be previously prepared by the foreman.

Weekend Excursion: On the weekend volunteers will have the opportunity to swim in the lake "Issyk-Kul" and visit historical sights Saymaluu Tash and Rukh Ordo. For more information about the above locations and Kyrgyzstan please visit www.welcome.kg or www.Karakol.kg

Meeting point: Karakol, Office of *Leadership*, 138 Lenin St. (crossroad: Koenkozova St). Travel cost from the airport to the meeting point is not reimbursed. Extra assistance with travel can be provided upon request.

Language: In English, there will be a camp leader who will interpret and help in all ways of communication.

Accommodation: Volunteers will live in the hostel.

Food: Cooking will be done by a hostel.

Group: Mixed, composed of approximately 5+ international, 2 United States Peace Corps volunteers and 2 local volunteers. Volunteers will manage working hours and free time activities with the camp leaders. Decisions will be made based on discussions with the whole group. Residents who wish to be involved will be welcome.

Insurance: Volunteers should come with their health and accident insurance.

Bring: A more detailed packing list will be sent after applying, a basic list includes: own medicine, backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, raingear, warm clothes, comfortable shoes for hiking, a swimsuit, sunscreen, insect repellent (much of the time will be spent on the lakeshore), a torch/flashlight, your national recipes, music, songs, games, energy, and a good mood!

Participation fee: 180 Euro should be paid upon arrival. The participation fee covers accommodation, food, transportation, recreation, and organizational costs.