

Let's Go (Yorkshire)

Volunteering Opportunities and Volunteers Centre Skopje

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Let's Go (Yorkshire) is an organisation that provides the chance for local young people (18 – 30) to do volunteering abroad, and for young people from abroad to come and volunteer with organisations here.

We are working with an organisation based in Macedonia on a youth volunteering project that will take place early next year. The Macedonian organisation is called Volunteers Centre Skopje. We can provide 4 young people from Kirklees the chance to visit Macedonia for 2 months, travelling out in February or March 2012, to work as volunteers at the Volunteers Centre Skopje.

Volunteers Centre Skopje (VCS)

Volunteers Centre Skopje produces a youth magazine called Voices which is published in 3 languages including English. It supports homeless children in Skopje and campaigns for children's rights in Macedonia.

VCS organises events throughout the year to bring young people from all over Europe together. Its activities include cultural/arts projects, charity work for children and disadvantaged communities in Skopje, volunteering in day centres and helping provide support services for street children, exchanges with other European projects and learning about different cultures.

Our project is for 4 young people from here to go to Macedonia and work with VCS for 2 months - helping produce the magazine, working with other young people, getting involved in and helping organise cultural events (depending on your particular interests), working with local children, making contacts, friends and learning about life for young people in Macedonia.

At VCS they have 6 staff and about 40 volunteers. They are very experienced in providing young people from abroad with fascinating and inspiring volunteering experiences, and supporting them whilst they do it so that their volunteers enjoy the experience and get the most from it.

Website: <http://www.vcs.org.mk> with links to facebook and twitter.

The Volunteering Opportunity

The four volunteers we are looking for to go to Macedonia are as follows:

- Volunteers who are resourceful and have a mature outlook – Skopje can be a confusing place at first and even with the support of VCS the volunteers will need to cope for themselves and help create their own opportunities whilst there.
- Volunteers who want to get experience in the fields of childcare, work with children and young people, social and community work in an environment that is different to and more challenging than the UK in many ways. And/or...
- Volunteers who want to get experience of journalism and factual writing through their involvement in producing Voices, VCS's youth magazine. And/or...
- Volunteers who want experience of design and graphics by working on Voices magazine.

- Volunteers who are motivated and prepared to work with Let's Go prior to their departure to define and research the detailed volunteering opportunities that they will undertake in Skopje.
- Volunteers who want a bit of an adventure.
- Volunteers who want to meet other young people from all over Europe and to live and work alongside them for 2 months.

The Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia is one of the countries that used to make up Yugoslavia. It is just north of Greece, it has a population of about 2 million (the UK population is over 60 million). The whole country is about twice the size of Yorkshire. Despite being a small country by UK standards, it has many high mountains and hundreds of lakes. And it has a great flag! – a bit like the Union Jack but colourful in bright red and yellow.

Macedonia became independent in 1991 and is a country that now wants to join the European Union.

VCS is in Skopje, the capital city of Macedonia. Skopje has over 600,000 people (roughly the size of Leeds) and is by far the biggest city in Macedonia.

Arrangements

Virtually all expenses are covered by this project – travel, accommodation, living expenses in Macedonia, weekly allowance etc.

This project is funded by Europe through Youth in Action (European Voluntary Service).

We are looking for 4 young people from Kirklees to have a fascinating experience in a part of Europe that people here in the UK seldom visit.

What next?

If you are interested in possibly going to do volunteering work for 2 months in Macedonia, let us know – we want to hear from you. We have a short form to be filled-in and then we will want to meet you again to talk about the project and the arrangements in detail. You will have the chance to ask any questions you may have about the project, and to keep in touch with us after that to go through any other things you want to about the trip.

We will then select the people to go out to Macedonia and work with them to prepare them fully for the visit.

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