

Infopack for you! Villaggio SOS di Saronno

Dear applicant!

Thank you for your interest in our project! In this little document you can find all the information which can be useful before applying.



Hosting organisation: Villaggio SOS di Saronno

Some words about Saronno

- Saronno is a city of Lombardy, North West of Italy, in the province of Varese with 38.902 inhabitants. The city is located between the cities of Milan, Como and Varese, without being extremely bound to none of them and it is also closed to Switzerland. Big part of the population has to travel every day to Milan because of their jobs, but the city of Saronno has also its own life in which also the peripheral towns take part (like Gerenzano, Turate, Uboldo, Rovello Porro, etc.).
- Saronno is an important regional center regarding school's offers (specially high-schools) as well as cultural and sport attractions with mountains and lakes at about 60 kilometers. Since 2004 the city is twined with the French city Challans. The project's environment, in which the volunteers will develop their activities, are the SOS-houses including the **Family Communities/Le Comunità Familiari SOS**, **Day time Centres/La Bottega di Geppetto**, **Youths' house ("Casa dei Giovani")** (described in the previous pages).

Villaggio SOS di Saronno – SOS Children's Village

- "Villaggio SOS di Saronno" is member of KINDERDORF INTERNATIONAL, the largest private worldwide organization taking care of children. The headquarter is in Innsbruck, Austria. Kinderdorf International exists in more than 134 countries of the world with about 1500 institutions; it collaborates also with UNESCO. In 2002 the institution has won the HILTON HUMANITARIA PRICE, the most important international price regarding humanitarian field. "Villaggio SOS di Saronno" is led by the "Cooperativa Sociale Villaggio SOS di Saronno", founded in 1986. The main objective of "Villaggio SOS di Saronno" is to temporarily host children with personal, family and social disadvantages, mainly those whose families are not able to carry out their own tasks. The organization aims at guaranteeing to each child the integration in a family situation to ensure a proper psycho-physic growth, seen the foretold return in the own family or in a new one. In any case, the children are hosted until the reaching of an adequate self-sufficiency to manage their own life and to get integrated into society.
- "Villaggio SOS di Saronno" appreciates and respects the work developed by people and organizations dedicated to the regional network of social services and the care of children and young people. The Villaggio collaborates and works together with this network contributing to the improvement of the conditions and quality of life of disadvantaged under aged and, in a more generally, fights for the welfare and care of all children.
- Thus Villaggio SOS di Saronno:
 - promotes the development and implementation of new projects regarding the emergent needs of children and families in collaboration with public and private social organizations
 - promotes and highlights voluntary work
 - participates actively in the regional social network and the activities and discussions promoted.

Proposed activities for volunteers

- Volunteers will be involved in 3 of the main services provided by villaggio SOS di Saronno:
- **a. Family Houses/Le Comunità Familiari SOS, they'll:**
 - >collaborate with the educators promoting free-time activities
 - >accompany children from school to the Villaggio,
 - >support the staff with everyday life activities and children with their homework
 - >collaborate with the educators in household issues (setting the table, collaborating with the organization of the house, etc.)
- **b. Day time Centres/La Bottega di Geppetto e la Botteghina, they'll:**
 - > support children and youngsters with their homework,
 - > collaborate with the educators in organizing and implementing recreational activities,

- > accompany children and youngsters from school and to different free-time activities.
- **c. Youths' house ("Casa dei Giovani"), they'll:**
- >collaborate with the educators in promoting free-time activities
- >support staff in organizing and cleaning the house
- >accompany the boys to different appointments, etc.

Food and accommodation

- EVS volunteers will be hosted together with other international volunteers in the Villaggio SOS di Saronno in a flat with a wonderful attic including 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, 2 bathrooms and a terrace. The flat is located upper the direction.
- During volunteering time the volunteer will have lunch and dinner at the SOS structure he will be integrated in, he can prepare his breakfast at the flat. During weekends, the volunteer can prepare something in the kitchen of the house where he will be living in. In any case, main food ingredients are available in the house and the volunteer can go together with the educator to shop groceries.
- In case of need the Villaggio SOS di Saronno will provide a bicycle at the volunteer's disposal in order to enable him to move around in the city easily. Seen the fact that Saronno is a small town, using other means of public transport would not be needed.

Useful links

Here you can find the website of Villaggio SOS di Saronno: <http://www.sossaronno.it/>

Here you can find the website of InCo, the coordinating organisation: <http://www.incoweb.org/eng>

If you would like to know more about the EVS experience, check out the blog of the volunteers: <http://www.incoweb.org/eng/Volunteers-say>