

Volunteering with the scouts in Hafnarfjörður – 2013-ISL-4



The organisation

Skátafélagið Hraunbúar is a local youth community of about 200 active scouts in 8 age divided groups who meet every week as well as participating in many common scouting events in Iceland and abroad. During the summer we offer an outdoor adventure camp for 6-12 year old children as well as running our town's campsite. Skátafélagið Hraunbúar owns and runs a small hostel all year round, focusing on youth groups during wintertime, but tourists during summertime. The hostel is located in the scout center. All profit from the hostel is used for the benefit of our scouts.

Our aim is to provide youth, through active and creative play, an experience of outdoor life, of working together as a group, supporting each other and respecting each other as well as our nature. We are first and foremost a scout organisation and work according to the principles of scouting.

Project summary

Skátafélagið Hraunbúar is a local youth community of about 200 active scouts who meet every week as well as participating in many common scouting events. Our project is a combination of various smaller scouting based projects. Our activities are seasonal so the volunteers try many different things, such as planning and leading scout meetings, helping to organize and take part in camps, work in our outdoors adventure camps for kids, work at a hostel and campsite, do maintenance work and more. We also encourage our volunteers to make their own projects within our project and we give them the support they need.

The role of each volunteer is very much up to the individual. We hope that the volunteer will be active and show initiative and interest.

Project time

May 1st- December 1st

Proposed activities

We have a variety of projects for our volunteers and there is a lot they can learn during their time with us. Our activities are seasonal so the volunteers try many different things.

May:

- On arrival training.
- Icelandic lessons.
- Volunteers introduce themselves, their countries and culture to the scout patrols.
- The volunteers will take part in the scout district's weekly routine. They will join our group of scout leaders which are also volunteers in preparation of scout meetings and leading meetings.
- The volunteers will help with maintenance of facilities, such as painting and easy repairs, both in Hraunbyrgi and our scout cabin 30 minutes' drive away.
- The volunteers will help with the preparation of Vormót Hraunbúa (The spring camp) which is one of the big events of the year for Icelandic scouts.
- The volunteers work closely with our scout activities project manager.



June to August:

- In the beginning of June the volunteers will take part in our spring camp which is a three day camping with lots of exciting activities.
- The volunteers will take part in preparing the outdoor adventure camp for kids. They will also work at the camp, leading games, taking care of the children and assisting them. Some of the 5 day camps end with an overnight camping outside Hafnarfjörður.
- The volunteers will take shifts at the hostel and campsite that the scouts run in Hraunbyrgi. The hostel work consists of cleaning, doing reception work and communicating with guests from all over the world.
- In August, the volunteers will take part in organizing the scout activities for the autumn.

September to December

- The volunteers will take active part in the scout district's weekly routine. They will in association with the other leaders prepare of scout meetings and lead meetings. They will also take part in preparing various scout related projects, such as camping, hiking and more.
- The volunteers will assist at the hostel when groups visit.
- The volunteers will assist in cleaning the center few hours a week.

Other projects:

- Hraunbúar scouts have a good collaboration with other scout districts in Iceland as well as Hafnarfjörður's search and rescue team and various nature and national parks. We will make sure that our volunteers will spend some weeks working on projects with some of our collaborators outside the capital area, e.g. working in outdoor activity camps in the countryside, taking part in a highland watch or assisting park rangers. These projects depend on the volunteers' interests and personalities and we will make decisions and make arrangements when we get to know our volunteers.
- Projects initiated by the volunteers. We appreciate and are open to all ideas.

The role of each volunteer is very much up to the volunteer. We hope that the volunteer will be active and show initiative and interest. We expect the volunteers to introduce their countries and cultures to our scouts and leaders.

Many of the activities the volunteers participate in take place

in the afternoons, evenings and weekends. We compensate irregular working hours and afterhours work with more free time.



The projects we offer our volunteers relate well to the key competences. For example; Volunteers will be encouraged to show initiative to create their own projects within our project, they practice their leadership skills, they learn about new cultures, they educate others on their country and culture, they will learn basics in a new language and practice their English (if it is not their mother tongue). The volunteers will learn many skills and techniques scouts practice. If our volunteers are scouts already, they will have a possibility of Gilwell training, a high quality leadership program for scouts. The volunteers will have to work with computers, both in organizing their projects as well as working in the hostel/campsite reception. We use an online project management system which the volunteers will learn to use.

A positive attitude and the will to learn new things will go a long way. It helps if the volunteer is ambitious towards his/her assignments and we hope that the volunteers develop confidence to show initiative and hold responsibility. We give them the support they need, all they need is the positive attitude and the will to work and learn. We will encourage the volunteers to keep the youthpass in mind the whole time since it is the best tool to gather information about their learning process and to reflect on it. You never know what will be a true learning experience, life is full of learning opportunities, some of the best learning comes from the unexpected.

Project context

Our volunteers will stay at Hraunbyrgi scout centre in Hafnarfjörður. Hraunbyrgi is situated in Hafnarfjörður's lava fields and Víðistaðatún recreation park, only a few minutes' walk away from the unspoiled nature and we are also close to bus stops, shops, restaurants, museums, swimming pools and various activities. As well as being the centre for scouts activities, Hraunbúar also run a small hostel in the house.



The volunteers will have individual rooms (volunteers of the same gender might have to share a room for 5-10 days during the summer). They will have access to a dining area, living room and bathrooms with showers, shared with hostel guests. Hraunbyrgi has two kitchens, which volunteers can use. One is shared with hostel guests, the other with the scouts and volunteers can use both. Volunteers have access to computers and internet. Wi-fi is also available everywhere in the house. Volunteers will have bicycles to use and get bus tickets for transport in the capital area. The organisation will pay for food for volunteers but they will have to buy and prepare their own meals. Allowance is paid by the organisation at the beginning of each month.

Hafnarfjörður is a beautiful town of 25.000 inhabitants only 15 minute's drive from Reykjavík center. Bus transportation is very easy, there is a bus to Reykjavík city center every 15 minutes from a bus stop 5 minute's walk from Hraunbyrgi.

Most of the work of the volunteers will take place in Hraunbyrgi and its surroundings. Special projects will take place outside the capital area, transportation will be provided. We want our volunteers to experience more of Iceland than the capital area.

How to apply

Tell us about yourself by sending your CV and letter of motivation by email to rekstur@hraunbuar.is. Don't hesitate to ask for more information by email or calling +354 5650900.