

# European Solidarity Corps

## Long-term volunteering in the Montessori Forest Kindergarten Ledňáček

We are looking for a motivated volunteer who enjoys spending time outdoors with children and feels comfortable in close contact with nature in all kinds of weather.

Most of our activities take place outside throughout the whole year, so this project is suitable for someone in good physical condition who enjoys an active lifestyle. Experience with outdoor activities, scouting, woodcraft, camping, or similar activities is welcome, but not required.

We appreciate volunteers who are active, respectful, patient, and willing to bring their own ideas into the community.

Motivation to work with children and become part of our everyday life is more important to us than nationality, gender, previous experience, or language level.

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### Quick Overview

- **Location:** Tišnov, Czechia (30 minutes from Brno)
- **Project type:** Long-term ESC volunteering
- **Duration:** preferably 12 months (6 months possible)
- **Working language:** English, Czech (or similar language such as Slovak)
- **Age:** 18–30
- **Accommodation:** shared volunteer house in Tišnov
- **Working hours:** approximately 30 hours per week
- **Main focus:** outdoor preschool education, Montessori and forest pedagogy
- **Suitable for:** people who enjoy nature, community life, and working with children

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### Basic Information about Ledňáček

- Website in English: <https://www.lmslednacek.cz/about-lednacek/>
- Duration of activity: preferably 12 months (or 6 months if needed)
- Contact person (ESC supervisor): Leona Šimková
- Email: [volunteering@lmslednacek.cz](mailto:volunteering@lmslednacek.cz)

Montessori Forest Kindergarten Ledňáček is part of the [Association for Community Education Hnízdo](#) (“The Nest”), which creates innovative educational projects in the Tišnov region.

As a volunteer, you automatically become part of a wider community connected to several educational organizations:

- <https://www.skolazahrada.cz/>
- <https://skolajasan.cz/>
- <https://www.skolacolibri.cz/>
- <https://www.kaluznicek.cz/>

Volunteers can visit these partner organizations, gain inspiration from their educational approaches and meet other international volunteers working in the region.

### Description of the Workplace

Ledňáček is a forest kindergarten with Montessori elements located in two yurts surrounded by apple orchards near Tišnov, approximately 25 km northwest of Brno, Czechia.

Children and teachers spend most of the day outdoors throughout the entire school year and in all kinds of weather. Our daily environment includes the garden, nearby forests, meadows, and riverside areas.

Working in a forest kindergarten can sometimes be physically demanding. Volunteers should feel comfortable spending time outside also in rain, cold weather, mud, or snow.

### Our Main Activities

- the kindergarten is open every weekday during the school year (1 September – 30 June)
- we work with a group of up to 18 children aged 3–7
- once a week we organize a morning club for parents with young children
- once a week we go on long trips with the children or to the gym
- during the year we organize several celebrations and community events for children and families
- in summer we organize 3–4 camps for children

### A Typical Day in Ledňáček (8:00–16:00)

The morning programme usually includes:

- Montessori work in the yurt
- morning circle
- snack time
- outdoor walk and games

After returning to the kindergarten area:

- children have lunch
- rest time with storytelling
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Afternoons may include:

- music, art, sports, or handcraft activities,
- free play, outdoor activities.

Volunteers are welcome to offer activities based on their own interests, talents, and experience.

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## What We Offer

- everyday experience in a forest kindergarten environment,
  - cooperation with experienced teachers,
  - learning opportunities in Montessori and forest pedagogy,
  - daily outdoor activities and close contact with nature,
  - space for creativity and independent initiatives,
  - participation in community life and decision-making,
  - accommodation in a shared volunteer house in Tišnov,
  - volunteer insurance through Henner,
  - coverage of basic ESC costs (travel, food allowance, pocket money),
  - Czech language lessons,
  - Youthpass certificate after completing the project,
  - opportunities to meet other international volunteers in Brno and the Tišnov region,
  - internships and visits in partner schools and educational organizations (Montessori school ZaHRAda and Jasan class, Democratic school CoLibri, Forest club Kalužníček)
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## Who Are We Looking For?

We are looking for someone who is:

- 18–30 years old,
- friendly, open-minded, responsible, and reliable,
- respectful towards children and other people,
- genuinely interested in spending time outdoors in all seasons,
- interested in education, community life or personal development,
- willing to actively participate in the life of the kindergarten and community,
- able to communicate in basic English.

Experience with Montessori education or forest pedagogy is an advantage but not required.

Understanding Czech language is also a big advantage, but not necessary.

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## Volunteer Activities

The volunteer mainly works as an assistant to the pedagogical team.

Main tasks include:

- supporting teachers during daily activities,
- helping with outdoor games and educational activities,
- assisting children with everyday tasks such as dressing, eating, or preparing for activities,
- inventing games and creative activities
- introducing English naturally through games and daily communication,
- helping with practical tasks connected to running the kindergarten (cleaning, cooking, gardening, washing dishes, etc.),
- assisting during community events and summer camps.

We encourage volunteers to develop their own small projects or activities during their stay.

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## Volunteer Schedule

Volunteers work approximately 30 hours per week, including:

- assistance in the kindergarten (maximum 4 working days per week),
- meetings with the ESC supervisor and coordinator,
- preparation time and independent study,
- Czech language lessons (optional),
- time for personal mini-projects.

### Days Off and Holidays

Volunteers usually have:

- 2 free days per week,
- 2 vacation days per month.

Vacation days are usually used during Christmas holidays and school breaks.

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## Accommodation

Volunteers live in a fully furnished shared volunteer house with a small garden in the centre of Tišnov.

In some situations, two volunteers may temporarily share one room.

The distance from the accommodation to the kindergarten is approximately 30 minutes on foot or less by public transport.

## About the Area

Tišnov is a small town near Brno with shops, cafés, a cinema, climbing wall, sauna, swimming pool and other services.

Brno city centre is approximately 30 minutes away by train or bus. Vienna, Prague, and Bratislava can be reached within 2–3 hours by train.

The region around Tišnov offers beautiful natural surroundings, forests, rivers and hiking opportunities.

Useful links:

- <https://www.tictisnov.cz/en/interesting-places/>
- <https://www.trip.com/travel-guide/attraction/tisnov-138214/tourist-attractions/1.html/>

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## Support During the Project

The Hnízdo Association is the hosting organization of the ESC project and an active local community based on democratic and respectful principles.

During the project, volunteers receive support from:

- a school supervisor (pedagogical guidance),
- ESC coordinator (practical matters and organization),
- project manager (manager of the ESC project )
- local mentor (your local guide outside of school)
- volunteer community in the Tišnov region,
- families and people connected to the Hnízdo schools.

We want volunteers to feel safe, supported, and included during their stay.

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## Selection Procedure

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please send:

- your CV and a short but meaningful motivation letter to: **volunteering@lmslednacek.cz**
- complete our questionnaire [here](#).

If your profile matches what we are looking for, our supervisor Leona Šimková will contact you to arrange an online interview.

Because this is a long-term volunteering opportunity, we want to make sure that both sides feel comfortable and that the project is a good fit.

If you are not yet familiar with forest kindergartens or Montessori education, we encourage you to explore some basic information before the interview.

After a successful interview, the final acceptance process is completed together with the ESC coordinator from Hnízdo.

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## More information

For more information please see our website:

- <https://www.lmslednacek.cz/in-english/>
- Hnízdo ESC host organization website: <https://www.spolekhnizdo.cz/>
- our Facebook pages

*We are looking forward to meeting enthusiastic people who enjoy nature, community life, and spending time with children.*