

A lush green forest with a stream flowing over mossy rocks, creating a waterfall. The scene is vibrant with various shades of green, from deep forest greens to bright highlights on the foliage. The water is clear and appears to be in motion, cascading over large, dark rocks covered in thick moss. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Nature & Primitive Technology

Youth Exchange

León. Spain

22 August - 1 September 2019

Context

We always forget nowadays how important is to learn how to "survive" without any help of our technological tools, without them we feel most of the time like lost. Our young people must learn again how relevant it is, as well, for their personal development and for the one of their pairs and their society. Moreover by "isolating" them for the "normal world" and motivating them to create their own environment like: their temporary accommodation, cook their own food – they can find inside themselves and realize that they got all the resources necessarily to accomplish such "hard activities" and become really aware of it. Furthermore we believe that the project itself with its aims and goals will be the perfect natural place, where our youngsters can discover the contact in between new cultures and different realities and not least to make true friendships and understand better the others. With the other partner organizations we all agreed that the youth we work with regularly, even though their parents and grandparents were routinely in touch with nature and the elements, has turned away from these traditional but daily practices, having adopted the fast paced lifestyle of social media use and of the digitized self, seeing these connections of their elders to nature as primitive, old fashioned and not natural, useful or even essential. We also want to carry out this project because it fits in with the mission we have set ourselves at El Bosque de Hielo, to give young people the tools to be leaders in their own future. Also, the other partner organizations indicated, that they need to prepare the young people in their organizations for the task of becoming leaders and organizing activities on their own.



The objectives are:

1. Work with the values of young people - develop a critical vision of consumption, promote teamwork, create a positive relationship with nature...
2. Develop concrete skills of young people - survive in nature, cook for themselves, build a shelter, lead a team...
3. To promote intercultural learning between young people from various countries, motivate them to fight against xenophobia.
4. Turn young people into leaders who are able to lead a team of youngsters on their own and can this way better contribute to the work of the partner organizations.
5. To promote the idea of the project - living in balance with nature, limiting our consumption - in wider public in various countries.
6. To strengthen the cooperation between our organizations and plan new activities together.



Where

The project will take place in a little village, Castrillo del Porma, with a nice river aside in the province of León, Spain. Its inhabitants dedicated themselves for centuries to agriculture and livestock, forming a humanized and domesticated landscape.

Historic city of León is only 30 minutes by car. As the mountains are not far we could go for a nice hiking and enjoy nature.



Activities

During the activity the participants will form working groups to develop projects in three lines: Construction, ceramics, cooking.

- Through construction projects, participants will be able to develop their creativity, teamwork, acquire survival skills... The challenge will be to build different temporary accommodation in which participants could stay:
 - 1. With materials of the surroundings and that constitute the traditional model of construction in the region: mud, sticks, wood, branches, straw...
 - 2. With stones and sticks to recreate the "castros", typical cottages of shepherds in the mountains of León.
 - 3. With fabrics and sticks to learn how to set up nomadic shops.
- With ceramic projects we will try to bring young people closer to concepts such as sustainability, overconsumption and creativity. Within this project we will try to build a traditional oven in the area to cook some of the meals.
- Cooking: The objective of this project will be that, at least one of the main meals of the day, will be carried out by the participants using bonfires, in addition to preparing some typical dishes of Spanish cuisine such as paella, or tasty barbecues. Through this activity we can become aware of healthy eating habits and how simple the culinary art can be.

With these three lines of projects, in the absence of food production, we will be able to have a very concrete idea of the traditional way of life, with the activities that defined the daily routine of a large part of the world population until the development of industrialization, being able to go back in these uses to the Neolithic.



Accomodation

We will be staying in an attractive center of activities in nature beside de river. Water and trees are going to be essential elements in out leisure time.

Food and sleeping are two of the targets of the project and the participants, as a group, are going to manage their own options. There will be a lot of healthy food and many options to sleep (not in a bed, sorry).

This is going to be an adventure camp, so be ready for action, lot of exercise, and use all your creativity to solve the challenges that the leaders are preparing.

The house is there but not for sleeping :-)



Travel

You need to arrive on the 22nd August. Madrid is the best airport, although is 350 km far from the activity. It could take four hours and a half to get by bus to León, where we can transfer you to the location of the project. There are many buses along the day and also some trains. Somebody of the organization will help you with the transfers in Madrid.

The leaving day is September 1st. Plan your trip with time enough because is a really busy day in the airports, train and bus stations.

Travel grant per one person:

- Italy: 275 euros
- Czech Rep: 275 euros
- Greece: 360 euros
- Croatia: 360 euros
- Finland: 360 euros

With time enough is easy to find cheap flights to Madrid but also consider the cost of the bus or train.

DON'T BUY ANY TICKETS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION FROM OUR SIDE! OTHERWISE WE WILL NOT PAY YOU THE REIMBURSEMENT.

Also, it is obligatory for all participants to get TRAVEL INSURANCE.

How to apply:

In order to apply to take part in the project, please, fill in this application form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwT8fktv2qrxjoLM99U44JVbC28SRFuzCqDr-V9FGRSlb5pw/viewform>

Feel free to ask any question to Isaac: isaac.mahoh@gmail.com

More information will be available in the web:

<http://elbosqueaventura.com/nature/>