



INFOPACK

for ESC volunteering project
in free democratic school CoLibri



Hnízdo
SPOLEK PRO KOMUNITNÍ VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ



About CoLibri

Background and environment (or a small taste of what our school feels like)

CoLibri was established in September 2018 by a group of enthusiastic parents. We are inspired by the work of Daniel Greenberg, Peter Gray, A. S. Neill and John Holt.

The school is a safe place where children are fully responsible for what they are learning and how. There is no curriculum or obligatory scheduled lessons. Children are free to play and follow their inner voice, their passions, goals and aspirations. Staff members act as facilitators, to help children achieve their goals.



The school runs on democratic principles. The school meeting makes all the decisions related to an everyday running of the school (e.g., trip suggestions, purchase of material, new school staff and children, setting rules). Each member of the school (the staff and children) has an equal vote. The meeting is voluntary; however, all are expected to abide by the decisions made at the meeting.

Rule breaking and laws are dealt with by the Judicial Committee (JC). Currently, there are two children and one adult on the JC and are elected for two weeks. All complaints are attended to by the JC. Each side has their voices heard before the final decision is made. For conflict solving we use non-violent communication.

A day in CoLibri

9:00 Morning Circle
10:30 Council (on Mondays and Wednesdays)
15:00 Evening Circle



Being part of our community, you will have the chance to:

- get to know the life in a free democratic school and participate on creating an alternative towards the classical educational model
- participate on different educational workshops for our guides (teachers), teambuilding, summer camps for children, meetings with the Association of the free and democratic schools in Czech Republic, visiting other free democratic schools in the country etc
- spend weekends with families of children who attend our school and thus become closely acquainted with the community

For more information visit our [website](#), and [facebook](#) page.





About the volunteering project

The host organization Hnízdo offers:

- czech language lessons
- an experienced mentor who will introduce you to Czech culture. She/he will inform you about leisure time activities and will be of assistance in case of personal difficulties
- accommodation with other volunteers in Tišnov
- opportunity to get in touch with other volunteers in Brno (lively, international, university city located 30 minutes train ride from Tišnov, and 2-3 hours train ride from Vienna, Prague, and Bratislava)

For more information check [the volunteering in Tišnov.](#)

What we look for

We look for the enthusiastic person who enjoys being with children and sharing his/her interests with them. (It would be wonderful if our children could spend a year with someone who has actually experienced the democratic school and lives it naturally. But it is not it is not a condition for acceptance.)

The volunteer is expected to mostly speak English (and other foreign languages) to the children as well as adults, the main purpose of the project is to create an environment where other languages, cultures and characters are present to experience the differences as natural part of the life.

That means, volunteers are supposed to be present at school during the morning programs, including expeditions, as well as during the afternoon programs. They are asked to volunteer for the school six hours every working day.

Their activity should come from what the volunteer personally likes or masters doing. They can prepare their own demos and projects (games, treasure hunts, presentations, cooking activities, sports etc.), help with preparing learning aids and tools, take part in expeditions etc. Enough time will be granted for preparation of any activities (within the 6 working hours) as well as maximal support from the teaching staff. Volunteers are also invited to join activities with kids as they feel like, try the learning aids by themselves or just watch what is going on in the classroom and make notes. Their feedback might be very valuable for the busy guides.

Regular meetings will be held once a week with the school team to discuss possible procedural, conceptual or others issues related to the running of the school. The team works on holacracy which provides a flat management structure that distributes authority and power.



For candidates

If you would like to participate in our volunteering project please apply by sending you CV via e-mail to roza.fadrna@skolacolibri.cz and fulfil this [questioner](#). Our supervisor Róza Franek will contact you for an online interview.

As we accept new volunteers on January and August. Interviews are held usually till April (for arrival in August) and till October (for arrival in January).

If you do not know the concept of the free democratic school, we highly recommend to check some of the following sources before the interview:

- Film about the first democratic school in the world – [Summerhill](#) in UK, (English, 1h 48 min)
- Documentary film about another concept of democratic education called [Sudbury Valley School](#). The original American school was founded in 1964. In the video students, teachers and also parents talk about the benefits of democratic education.
- Documentary movie about [Sands School](#) (English, 20 min).
- On the YouTube platform you will find many inspiring sources, for example an interview with the founder of [Sudbury Valley School](#), with the founder of Summerhill [A. S. Neill](#) or with the education expert [Naomi Aldort](#).
- *Free to learn* by Peter Gray is one of the basic books about free education. It is a summary of the essays from his [blog](#) about free education. You can download it [here](#).



