



INFOPACK

for EJC volunteering project  
in free democratic school CoLibri



## About CoLibri

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

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 free democratic school and participate on the creating alternative towards the classical educational model
- Participate in 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 in other free democrating schools in the country etc.
- Spend weekends with families and children attending the school and thus become closely acquainted with the community.

For more information visit our site <http://www.skolacolibri.cz/> and facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/skolacolibri>.





## About the volunteering project

The host organization Hnízdo offers:

- Czech language lessons
- An experienced mentor who will introduce you to Czech culture. They will inform you about leisure time activities and will be of assistance in case of personal difficulties.
- Accommodation with other volunteers in Tišnov, Czechia.
- 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 [The volunteering project](#) in Tišnov.

### What we look for

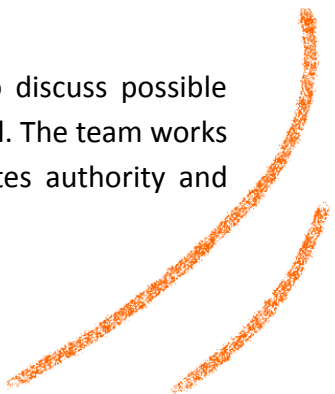
We look for an enthusiastic person who enjoys being with children and shares their interests with them. (It would be wonderful if our children could spend a year with someone who has actually experienced the democratic school and lives it naturally. But it is not it is not a condition for acceptance.)

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 a natural part of 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 each of the volunteers personally likes or masters doing. They can prepare their own demos and projects (games, treasure hunts, presentations, cooking activities, sport...), help with preparing learning aids and tools, take part in expeditions and so on. 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 teaching team to discuss possible procedural, conceptual or other 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

Did you go through the previous sections? Would you like to participate in our project as a volunteer? Please, apply via this email [martina.hujova@skolacolibri.cz](mailto:martina.hujova@skolacolibri.cz) and fulfill this [questionnaire](#).

Our supervisor **Martina Hujová** will contact you for an online interview.

As we accept new volunteers on January and in August. Interviews are held usually till April (for arrival in August) and till October (for arrival in January).  
(Exceptions in time of interview and arrival are possible, but we prefer to follow our plan.)

If you do not know the concept of the free democratic school, we highly recommend to check at least 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 this kind of education.



Quite a short documentary movie about [Sands School](#) (English, 20 min)



On the YouTube platform you will find many inspiring sources with the founder of Summerhill [A. S. Neill](#) or with the education expert [Naomi Aldort](#).



Free to learn is one of the basic books about this kind of education by Peter Gray. It is a summary of the essays from his [blog](#) about free education. You can download it [here](#).



