

## Where can you get involved?

Get involved and work with children and young people, read to pensioners, tend to habitats or bring adolescents closer to the workings of a museum: the range of assignments is as varied as our society itself.

Besides activities in the social and environmental spheres, there are also placements in the fields of culture, integration and sport. You do not need any specialist training to become a volunteer. You will undertake duties which go beyond the core services of the place of assignment.

Anne is involved in the Federal Volunteer Service for refugees



## How can you find the right place of assignment?

- 1 [www.bundesfreiwilligendienst.de](http://www.bundesfreiwilligendienst.de) gives information on the job areas.
- 2 Search for a suitable location under „Einsatzstellensuche“ [search for a place of assignment] or ask an advisor on site.
- 3 Report to the assignment location and set a date for an introductory interview without obligation.
- 4 If it's what you're looking for, sign the agreement and start with the Federal Volunteer Service.

### Imprint

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Title page: Joana is a contact for sailors in the sailor's home Bremerhaven



Bundesamt für Familie und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben



# The Federal Volunteer Service

The Federal Volunteer Service, which was established in 2011, is all about the community getting involved in the community. The Federal Volunteer Service (BFD) is aimed at all those who would like to get involved outside of their job or training in the social, cultural or ecological spheres or perform other activities for the common good for 6 to 24 months, while being covered by social security and supervised by professionals in the form of free training and seminars.

## Who can join in?

Anyone who has completed full-time compulsory education can get involved in the Federal Volunteer Service. Age, gender, nationality and the type of school qualification is immaterial. All those interested who are 27 years of age or above can also get involved on a part-time basis (more than 20 hours per week).

## Foreign volunteers

Foreign citizens can also participate in the Federal Volunteer Service. To do so, they must possess a residence permit entitling them to work in Germany. Under Section 18 of the German Residency Act, volunteers from abroad can generally be granted such a residence permit specifically in order to participate in the Federal Volunteer Service if they are in possession of an agreement with a place of assignment.

Once they have found a place of deployment, they must apply for a visa for performing voluntary services while still in their home country, since they will only be issued the required residence permit in Germany if they entered the country with the appropriate visa.

## Will you join in?

The Federal Volunteer Service is aimed at all those who

- want to be actively doing something after finishing school or graduating from university,
- want to make good use of their time before starting their degree or training,
- are still undecided as to which career path to take and want to get to know new lines of work,
- are already in work but looking for a career change,
- want to gain valuable practical experience without the pressure,
- want to help others during a sabbatical, or
- want to work for the common good after retirement.



## Committed? Of course!

The general conditions are straightforward. The aim is to give an enriching job to all those who want to get involved.

### Pedagogical support

A skilled employee looks after the volunteer at their place of assignment. Volunteers receive free seminars.

### Pocket Money

The volunteers receive an agreed amount of pocket money; the highest amount is currently 438 euro. Work clothes, board and lodgings or commensurate financial compensation may be provided.

### Social Security

The volunteers are treated in a similar way to trainees as regards social security. Contributions to pension, accident, health, nursing and unemployment insurance are paid by the place of assignment.

### Reference

Upon completing the Federal Volunteer Service, volunteers receive a qualified reference.

**Danylo**  
is a Federal Volunteer at a theatre in Potsdam