

Initiation Course to Volunteering

Young People for the Neighbourhood

A service learning project in La Florida

November 2007

1. Purpose and Objectives

The course is framed within the Young People for the Neighbourhood project, driven by the Eduard Fontserè secondary school, together with the *La Florida Youth Club*.

The course aims to **introduce** young people to the world of volunteering and to help them **prepare** for the following practical experience: to work as youth workers' assistants in the *La Florida Youth Club*.

The course therefore represents the systemized learning aspect of the project, although skills, attitudes and concepts will be studied and strengthened throughout the whole practical experience.

Educational Objectives

The **formative objectives of the course** are related to the 4 pillars of the XXI century's education (learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be):

1. To understand one of the neighbourhood's social needs – the challenge of children's leisure time – in order to obtain a more complete view of their environment.
2. To understand the associative movement and the world of volunteering through the *La Florida Youth Club*.
3. To reflect upon and absorb the values of solidarity, participation and compromise.
4. To improve personal autonomy, imagination and initiative, as well as the ability to face new challenges with optimism.
5. To work in groups, putting pro-social attitudes and the practice of living together to use.
6. To improve communication skills.
7. To begin practising personal skills and abilities (artistic, athletic, dramatic, organizational, musical...) and to put them to the service of others.

2. Course Structure

The course consists of 12 hours structured into 4 sessions of 3 hours each, and has an active and participative methodology.

1st Session	The associative movement and the world of volunteering.
2nd Session	Profiling the volunteer: attitudes, values, rights and duties.
3rd Session	An introduction to children's leisure time and to the world of youth clubs.
4th Session	How to be a youth worker's assistant and how to contribute.

3. Course Outline

1. The associative movement and the world of volunteering.

- Who are these associations and NGO's, and what are they for? What role do they play in democratic societies?
- Which associations are there in the neighbourhood? How do they contribute to the quality of life and the social cohesion of the neighbourhood?

2. Profiling the volunteer: attitudes, values, rights and duties.

- What motivates a person to become a volunteer for an association or an NGO?
- What is needed to become a volunteer? Can anybody be a candidate? What works and what doesn't?
- What is expected from a volunteer? What is the minimum compromise?

3. An introduction to children's leisure time and to the world of youth clubs.

- Why is children's leisure time a challenge for our society?
- What happens to the children's leisure time in La Florida?

- What do youth clubs propose, and do? What does the *La Florida Youth Club* do?

4. How to be a youth worker's assistant and how to contribute.

- What is the youth worker's role? How can they be supported?
- What skills do I have? How can I put them to the service of the children in the youth club?
- What can I learn from this experience?

Traslation: **Katrina Estivill, Ashoka's Volunteer**