

BONFAREMO e.V.
Adlerstraße 8
D - 84453 Mühldorf a. Inn



**BON
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THE KINGS' ACADEMY

THE KINGS' ACADEMY in Kenya (Loitokitok) is Peterson Nyaga's vision of a school, which will offer orphans and children from poor families a positive future.

Education is the path to prosperity, knowledge and wisdom.

In Kenya, primary education is compulsory and begins at the age of five or six with a year of kindergarten commonly known as Nursery School or pre-unit. The first class or year of primary school is known as Standard 1, the final year as Standard 8. Most primary schools are day schools with pupils living at home. All public primary school pupils sit for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination at the end of the school year in Standard 8.

However, many parents can only afford to send their children to public schools, which are virtually free of charge but hopelessly overcrowded. On average across all primary schools in Kenya, there are approximately 40 students per teacher, which means average class sizes amount to around 60 to 70 students. This means that teachers are forced to use teaching methods that cannot take into account individual students' needs. Students' strengths and weaknesses cannot be addressed adequately and individual talents can never be revealed.



KENYA

Few countries on earth can offer visitors as much to see and do. Within the borders of a single country, you will find savannahs rich with big game, timeless cultures unchanged by the modern world, pristine beaches and coral reef, equatorial forests and mighty snow-capped mountains, searing deserts and cool highland retreats and endless opportunities for adventure, discovery, relaxation; more than you would ever expect...

Furthermore, Loitokitok is conveniently located on the Tanzanian boarder allowing you to also profit from the riches of this wonderful country. Tanzania is home to some of the continent's most prominent landmarks ranging from Mount Kilimanjaro, to Serengeti, to Zanzibar.

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VISION

The project aims to establish a new primary school. The school will begin by accepting the first students to the Nursery School in January 2013 and then continuously grow as an additional class is accepted into the school every year. In order to allow for smaller class sizes with 20 to 30 students, the school will have to be privately funded through school fees and donations. Every third student is intended to receive a scholarship, allowing him or her to attend the school free of charge. This will enable students from varied social backgrounds to attend the school and for them to receive more individual support than in public schools.

Furthermore, the project intends to introduce new teaching methodologies better equipped to promote creativity and individual talents and arm students with a basic understanding of how to learn. In East Africa normal means of teaching tend to concentrate on lecture style teaching, primarily encouraging a mentality of learning by heart and neglecting the importance of self-reliant learning. This teaching style bears major drawbacks in later life as it often robs students of the basic skills to progress in their education. Based on the Kenyan curriculum and in cooperating with several foreign universities the project plans to establish an open source project to develop learning materials providing teachers of the school with the necessary teaching aides to achieve a change in attitude. Additionally, the project intends to find schooled volunteers (preferably students planning to become teachers themselves) willing to further promote this shift by providing supplementary methodological training and support to the staff.

Finally, without any exceptions, it is Peterson's firm belief to establish a learning environment completely free of violence and fear. Unfortunately, beating is still the most common mean of disciplining students. Teachers will have to be educated in other means of attaining respect and quiet in their classrooms. Rest assured: violence will not be tolerated in any situation at THE KINGS' ACADEMY.



OUR PLANS

THE KINGS' ACADEMY is intended to continuously grow as an additional class is accepted into the school every year to provide for students from Nursery School through Standard 8. Additionally, orphaned or abandoned children are supposed to be provided with the opportunity to live on the school campus and thus grow up in a sheltered, safe and nurturing environment. We will therefore need support regarding construction work in the next eight years, as well as volunteers, who are willing to assist the teaching staff as soon as the first children have been accepted into the school.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES?

- in the first phase of the project we will primarily need help regarding the construction of all necessary buildings and school facilities required for registering with the Ministry of Education and admitting the first students to school in January 2013. A profession is not required; however, handicraft skills are of advantage.

- with the first students being accepted to THE KINGS' ACADEMY we will also need help with teaching and caring for the children. Volunteer responsibilities will primarily focus on providing assistance to Peterson and his staff regarding the preparation of teaching materials and providing supplementary methodological training to the staff (e.g. team work, self-guide learning, etc.). The curriculum and guidance on all required learning materials will be made available through an open source project Bonfaremo is currently seeking to establish with several foreign universities aimed at developing all aides needed to achieve a change in attitude at THE KINGS' ACADEMY.



WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

- Pack an open mind, a spirit for adventure (from Kilimanjaro to Serengeti, East Africa has much to offer), curiosity, joy for working with people of different cultural backgrounds and most important willingness to benefit from a cultural exchange without believing that integration into an African culture will be a piece of cake
- Fluent spoken English is a necessity
- Fluency in Kiswahili is not required (in Kenya all students start to learn English in primary school), but will definitely help to facilitate communication and understanding

WHO WILL BE YOUR CONTACT PERSON?

- Peterson Nyaga will be your dedicated contact person in Kenya. Having functioned as the volunteer program coordinator at Msamaria Center for Street Children in Moshi and given his many years of experience with volunteers around the world Peter is well adapted to accommodating the needs of foreign guests.

Please Note: Peterson is currently a full-time teacher at Msafiri English Medium Pre- and Primary Schools in Tanzania and is committed to fulfilling his contract, which does not end until December 2012. He will thus only be able to come to Kenya on the weekends. His wife Magdaline on the other hand will be present full-time and function as your contact person in his absence. Magdaline also has extensive experience in working with volunteers.

WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?

- You have the choice to either stay in your own little house with Peterson's parents in law, who own a small farm in rural Ngama close to the new school compound, or a room annexed to Peterson's shop at the main road leading to Loitokitok. The farm does not have electricity, however, will give you an excellent opportunity in getting to know Kenyan culture and traditions. Staying in the room behind Peterson's shop will on the other hand provide you with more independence and better access to public transportation.

- Running water is not available and has to be obtained from a public well in both cases. Sanitary facilities are very basic meaning you should be willing to make sacrifices regarding your personal standards.

- Visitors from home (e.g family or friends) are also welcome to stay with the project, however, are asked to contribute to food and accommodation.



WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

For food and accommodation you will be asked to contribute 6,50 EUR per day. Payment is to be made in advance to your stay through Bonfaremo.

HOW TO GET TO THE KINGS' ACADEMY?

Loitokitok is conveniently located on one of the major transportation routes between Tanzania and Nairobi. Pick-Up from the airport can be arranged through Peterson's brother (50 EUR) or we are happy to provide assistance regarding transportation from the airport to Loitokitok, where you will be picked up, by Peterson himself or his wife Magdaline.

DURATION

The minimum duration for volunteers is two weeks as traveling to Loitokitok usually is very time-consuming, making a shorter stay most inefficient. Visitors are also welcome to stay for shorter time periods.

WORKING HOURS

Working hours usually are between 30-40 hours per weeks, however, can be arranged to your convenience.



PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- at least 18 years of age at the time of starting as volunteer
- it is compulsory for you to have international travel insurance for the entire duration of your stay coverage (minimum requirement: travel health insurance).

Recommendations: www.adace.de (ADAC Auslands-Krankenschutz LANGZEIT)

- valid passport (validity must be at least 6 months longer than the last day of the program)
- maturity, poise, flexibility, independence and most importantly the desire to work with people of different cultural backgrounds.

PROGRAM DATES

Please send us your enrollment form or contact us at least six weeks prior to your desired departure. We want to ensure that you have enough time for all required vaccinations and necessary visa procedures.

Note: the earlier you send us your application, the better we can plan the project's progress and adjust the project plan to your personal talents and capabilities.

SAFETY

Kenya, like any other country, has its share of crime and there are a few basic rules you can observe to avoid unpleasant situations. Avoid carrying large sums of cash and do not display jewelry or valuables. Do not walk through unlit areas at night without a local. Ask your hotel doorman to call for a taxi and agree on the price before boarding.

The information below is intended to ensure your safety. Please read it carefully and make sure to follow the outlined instructions and advice. If in doubt, please always contact your local program coordinator (Peterson Nyaga) or your country's embassy.

<http://213.198.57.244/Topical-Issues-of-Concern-to-T.63.0.html>

Source: Embassy of the Republic of Kenya. Date: October 2011

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Visitors to Kenya are required by law to have passports with a validity of not less than six months and all prerequisite visas. As visa requirements keep on changing, please contact us by mail (volunteer@bonfaremo.org) for the latest information regarding the visa application process. Please also feel free to visit the website of the Kenyan embassy in your country.

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION

Please contact a medical doctor specialized on travel health at least 6-8 weeks prior to your departure. He will be able to advise you on all required immunizations and what other means of protection are available to you. For more travel health information please visit a Center for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov) or a Tropical Institute (www.tropeninstitut.de).

GENERAL INFORMATION

A placement as volunteer is not equivalent to touristic travel. You will be challenged by a harsh social reality on a daily basis and face a culture, climate, food and sanitary facilities very unlike your usual comfort zone. It can be overwhelming to adjust to these completely different conditions and you are bound to experience a culture shock, which will however fade away. To take part in voluntary work demands maturity, poise, flexibility, independence and most importantly the desire to do social work, be prepared to make sacrifices, but also the experience of a life time.

HOW TO APPLY OR GET MORE INFORMATION?

Just email us at volunteer@bonfaremo.org or fill out the attached enrollment form.

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VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____
First Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Mobile: _____
E-Mail: _____
Nationality: _____
Passport No: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Education: _____
Occupation _____
Work experience or special qualifications: _____
Spoken languages: _____
Do you have any special health needs (e.g. dietary restrictions)? Please specify: _____

Please attach passport-size picture here

PROGRAMM DETAILS

Desired program start date (dd/mm/yyyy): _____
Desired length of stay in weeks: _____
If you want to travel with a friend, please give his/her full name: _____

Emergency Contact

Please provide full name, address, telephone number, e-mail and kind of relationship:

- I have carefully read and fully understand the program description and am fully aware of the fact that Bonfaremo is only acting as a facilitator helping to establish contact with the local project leaders. Bonfaremo is not providing any services and can thus not be made responsible for any loss, damage or injuries enquired during the volunteer work program.
- I know that I need to take care of travel health insurance and I guarantee to have adequate health insurance coverage before my departure.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please explain your motivation to participate in a volunteering program?

Please explain your education and any other qualifications relevant to the volunteer work program?

Has there been a time in your life when you had to go beyond your comfort zone?
Please explain your answer.

Please list any concerns or questions:

How did you learn about Bonfaremo?