



Infosheet for SCI Sweden work camp Storholmen Viking Village 15th of July – 9th of August 2020



Welcome to Storholmen Viking village, we really look forward to have you with us! Here is some information about SCI Sweden, the partner organization Storholmen, and about the work camp.

About SCI Sweden

SCI Sweden is the Swedish branch of the international peace organization Service Civil International (SCI). SCI Sweden was formerly known as Internationella Arbetslag (IAL) and was founded in 1943 and has since then worked for an ecological and multicultural society characterized by solidarity, non-violence and understanding between people. SCI is a non-profit voluntary organization independent of religion and party-politics.

About Storholmen Viking Village

Storholmen is an archaeological open air museum. Our goal is to give an intriguing insight in the everyday life of Viking Age. We want people of all ages to get the opportunity to try Viking age handicraft, games, listen to storytelling and be part of everything that takes place, and not merely be observers. To give visitors an interest for history, give a nuanced picture of Viking age, and work against prejudices, are what we see as some of our most important tasks. During spring we take care of school children who come to learn and experience the Viking age with all their senses. In summer we have activities for visitors and tourists. We also arrange Viking weddings and fests for groups, and provide guided tours all year. You can find more information at www.storholmen.org.



The Viking village is located in beautiful nature scenery. Next to the village is an iron-age burial site with 166 graves, where old oak trees grow amongst the barrows. It is also a nature preserve. The lake Erken surrounds the Viking village, and is the largest lake in the region of Uppland. On walking distance from the museum is a restaurant and a pizzeria. Nearest town is Norrtälje 10 km from the museum where you find banks, shops, stores, computers etc. 80 km to Stockholm and Uppsala.

Activities and work in the village during the camp

In addition to the 6 participants from SCI Sweden there will also be more volunteers and members from the support club of Storholmen living in the village, whom we are going to get to know and work with. Our community will therefore be a mix of international and Swedish participants in all ages.

The first few days of the camp we will have a preparation period where you will learn about Viking age handicrafts and history. During the first few days you might also help prepare the museum for opening. The next three weeks the museum will be opened for tourists between 12.00 and 16.00, Tuesday to

Saturday. During open visitors can try ancient handicrafts like forging, bead making and textile work. There is also storytelling, prehistoric music, lectures and Viking games.

The workday during the camp starts with morning meeting 10.00. (Breakfast at 9.00.) During open hours, the work is to “be a Viking” in the village; showing tourists the ancient handicrafts you learned, working in the café, and taking care of visitors. When not opened, we all do the everyday tasks needed to run the village, like cooking, renovating fences, or do dishes for example. What you work with will also depend on your interests and skills!

During evenings, the village often simmers with activity and handicraft around the camp fires and some nights we have special Viking age activities just for us that live in the museum. Many members from the support club of Storholmen also live in the Viking village during summer.

What we expect from you

In order to be fully aware of your responsibilities during the work camp, please read carefully the following:

- You are expected to be an **active member of the group** and contribute to work, housekeeping and free time activities.
- You are expected to work six hours per day, five days per week, on a voluntary basis.
- You are expected to stay for the whole duration of the work camp.
- You are expected to **wear Viking age clothes during all times** in the Viking village (Storholmen will provide Viking Age clothes).
- Keep in mind that the use of drugs is strictly forbidden.

Accommodation and food

The accommodation is very primitive, you will sleep on the ground in a (Viking) tent. Unfortunately, we do not have a shower, but you can clean yourself in the lake instead. However, we do have a sauna that you can use during the evenings.

We provide food during the stay and cook for everyone. Sometimes you might be helping out in the kitchen. Nearest town is Norrtälje 10 km, where you find bank, computers and stores.

Culture

Part of your experience from your participation in a work camp is to get to know more about each other's countries, culture and background. The Viking village Storholmen wants to give people the chance to get a more nuanced experience of the Viking Age and to show that no culture is isolated, not in time nor in place. Therefore, it would be very appreciated if you, before coming to the camp, did some historical research on the situation and culture in your country during the time of the Viking Age, about 1000 years ago. So that we all together can compare and discuss the relations between different cultures, and the conditions of life in the world 1000 years ago. Maybe you want to bring for example some typical song, game or photos from your country, to show and share with everyone else in the camp?

Language

The language used by all participants in our work camps is English. You must, therefore, be able to speak and understand English well, so that you don't feel isolated!

Money

The currency used in Sweden is the Swedish Krona (SEK). 10 SEK is approximately equal to 1 Euro. In cities most shops do accept credit cards like Visa and Mastercard (some shops only accept credit cards).

Insurance

All volunteers coming from SCI member or partner organizations are insured against accidents for the whole duration of the work camp.

Arrival & Departure

Arrival day is Wednesday the 15th of July. We will start work on Thursday at 10:00. During the first days we will have some training for you before the tourists arrive the week after.

We would very much appreciate if you arrive at the work camp on scheduled time so group dynamics can be at its best! Please do not leave earlier than departure day the 9th of August. If needed you can stay one extra night and leave on the 10th (we prefer that you leave late on the 9th or on the 10th).

Travel directions

The easiest way would be to first get to Stockholm. For environmental causes we recommend that you, if possible, travel by bus or by train. When in Stockholm, get to “Tekniska högskolan” (you can get there both by metro and by bus), from there take bus 676 to Norrtälje. The bus trip to Norrtälje takes one hour. From Norrtälje you can take bus number 641, 636 or 637, tell the bus driver to stop at *Svanberga affär*. Here you follow the road back 200 meters down to the lake. Next to the beach is a path leading through the woods to Storholmen. The camp is located at the village of Svanberga.

There are several bus and train companies in Sweden. Homepage of the largest railway company is: <http://www.sj.se/start/startpage/index.form?!=en> they cooperate with bus companies, so if you want to you can buy a ticket from anywhere in Sweden to Norrtälje on their website.

For information about travelling in and around Stockholm and Norrtälje visit <http://sl.se/en/>.

Homepages of some bus companies: <http://www.eurolines-travel.com/> (international) or http://www.swebus.se/SwebusExpress_com/ (mostly domestic).

What to bring

Important: We all wear Viking Age clothing in the Viking village **at all times**. The village provides Viking clothes for you to wear. Try to bring neutral brown leather shoes, or shoes that are “old looking/prehistoric”, if possible. During opening hours in the museum (12:00-16:00) we go **bare-foot** (unless you have **authentic** prehistoric shoes). All **other times** (not during open) you can wear the leather shoes you brought. Please note that there isn't a big need for “normal” clothes since you will be wearing Viking clothes the whole time (even after closing).

Here's a short list of some things that we suggest you bring:

- ⤴ Warm sleeping-clothes for the chilly Swedish summer nights.
- ⤴ Towel, swimsuit and biodegradable shampoo/soap.
- ⤴ Brown leather shoes, (preferably “old looking”) (if you have any).
- ⤴ Sleeping bag and underlay (sleeping pad).
- ⤴ And most of all, a good sense of humor and an open mind!

If you take any medication, bring enough supplies with you and inform your camp-leader (if not specified in your application form, please inform us if you have some illnesses that have to be taken in consideration for example asthma or allergies).

Those of you who require special dietary (vegetarian, vegan, gluten, or lactose-free) please inform us before, so that we can prepare everything.

Finally

We really look forward to seeing all of you! We will all do our best to make our camp weeks joyful and unforgettable!

Most welcome!

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