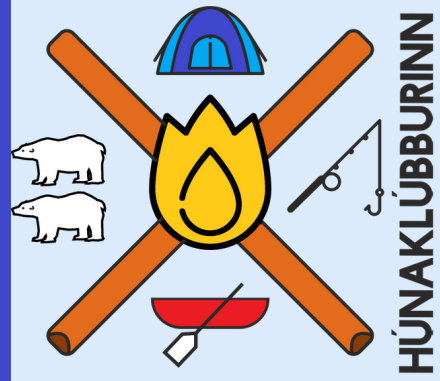


Youth Worker Húnaþing vestra



What is Youth Work?

Youth work supports young people in growing up, getting ready for independent life, and feeling included in society.

Everyone has the right to participate in society and enjoy a good everyday life (UNICEF, 2022). A Youth Worker helps to prevent the social exclusion of young people. Their aim is to help young people become responsible members of society and promote the well-being of youth and communities. Youth Workers help youth actively participate in society and in decision making of their communities.



Photo 1: Welfare Council Meeting in Pyhtää, Finland 09 June 2022. Photo was taken during a Youth Exchange between Pyhtää, Finland and Húnabing vestra, Iceland. To learn more about the project go to <https://www.hunaklub.org/youth-exchanges.html>

"A youth worker is person who youth can easily reach out to or talk to. You don't need to be in any trouble or have any issues to talk about. You can just hang out with a youth worker or go to a youth house. So, a Youth Worker is an adult who you can trust and is on your side. Youth houses are places where you're always welcome, even though you would not want to do anything specific; just be yourself, don't have to pretend to be anything else. Youth work and youth houses gives youth a safe environment to grow and supports youth to find their future." --Hanna Puhakka, Youth Worker, Pyhtää, Finland.

How does Youth Work help youth?

Youth workers help give a voice to youth in their communities.

Youth workers connect with young people in different settings, for example:

- Building relationships one-on-one and in groups.
- Bringing young people together for shared activities (such as creating clubs and finding out the talents and needs of the youth).
- Discussing topics that are important to youth and helping them to find resources related to personal and social education on a variety of subjects such as health, well-being, bullying, local and global issues.
- Acting as an advocate for young people's interests. For example, helping them become more civic engaged in their communities and helping them improve resources and services for young people.



Photo 2: Húnaþing vestra Skateboarding Club. A youth group who met over 9 months from 2019-2020 to learn how we can make a skate park in Hvammstangi. We raised 500,000 ISK.

What would Youth Work look like in Húnaping vestra?

A Youth Worker in Húnaping vestra could work in coordination with other resources in the community. For example, they would work closely with the elementary schools, with the social worker, UMFÍ, Órion, Kormákur, the youth council, Húnaklubburinn, and other youth groups and youth associations. By working closely with these organizations, the Youth Worker gets to know the youth, help connect youth to resources, and create youth clubs and activities that might be missing. This will help reduce social exclusion and connect with youth that typically are not active in sports, music, or other activities.

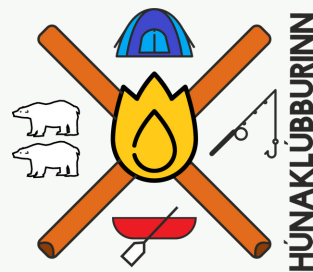
Húnaklubburinn will work with the Youth Worker in training them to apply for grant funding, community youth development, and youth projects that benefit the community.

The Youth Worker would be a municipal employee. Húnaping vestra would continue to maintain youth facilities, supporting young people's associations and youth groups. A Youth Worker would make the work that the municipality already does for youth more effective.



Photo 3: Húnaklubburinn youth created a bag for a fundraiser during Eldur í Húnaping 2021. All of the money raised goes toward funding youth projects.

Next Steps



Húnaklúbburinn is currently working on an international project with Pyhtää, Finland and Húnaping vestra, Iceland. Our project, Back to the Roots, aims on learning more about what Youth Work is and how small, countryside communities benefit from a Youth Work. Ten youth and five youth workers will come to Húnaping vestra 22-28 October 2022. They will join our ten youth and five youth leaders. During this exchange we will finalize our two year project and we will give a presentation on our work.

1 Húnaklúbburinn will continue working with youth and the community

Húnaklúbburinn would like to meet with Byggðarráð to discuss our youth projects and what we have learned about Youth Work.

2 Formal Presentation to Húnaping vestra. October 2022

The youth from Pyhtää and Húnaping vestra will give a public presentation on our work. We would like to invite everyone who work with youth (schools, youth leaders, coaches, Byggðarráð, and municipality workers) to hear what the youth have to say about Youth Work.

3 Outline next steps for the creation of a Youth Worker in Húnaping vestra together with the youth

During the formal presentation, we would like to outline the next steps in bringing a Youth Worker to our community.



Thank you!

Photo 4: Youth group Pyhtää and Húnaping vestra October 2021. Photo was taken during a Youth Exchange between Pyhtää, Finland and Húnaping vestra, Iceland.