You Are Invited to Participate
in
English Language Camps
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Vilnius & Siauliai, Lithuania
Summer 2011

INTRODUCTION: The Wisconsin Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (WIESCO), a 501c3 not-for-profit, has more than two decades of experience sponsoring English language camps in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Macedonia. It is in the process of organizing its fifth year in Lithuania. The camps, organized in cooperation with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, offer you an exceptional opportunity to meet the people and to experience the culture of Lithuania while sharing with them your knowledge and introducing them to America and Americans.

There is no need to know the Lithuanian language. This is English camp, and students are conversant in English. They are at camp to practice and expand upon their already existing skills in the English language through constant dialog with native American speakers.

DURATION: Arrival in Lithuania is June 24, 2011. We return on July 20, though you may append personal travel, if desired. The camp itself is three full weeks. It is preceded by a few days for travel and setting up at the school facilities, and is followed by a few days of Rest & Relaxation. Late afternoons, evenings and weekends are available for personal and group exploration, sightseeing, etc. Also, our hosts are planning some events or outings for us.

THE CAMPS: Two camp locations, addressing the needs of separate groups, are in the planning stage. Each camp is led by between 8 and 10 instructors. You choose which camp better suits your background experience, interests, etc.

VILNIUS: The goal of this camp is to advance the abilities of about 100 English speaking Lithuanian educators. You choose to instruct either of two independent groups:

- English teachers seeking to improve their personal fluency in English and to learn new methods of instruction useful to them upon returning to their classrooms.
- School administrators, and teachers of subjects other than English, seeking to improve their skills for professional and personal reasons.

Instruction will address all areas of understanding English – familiarity with its nuances, intonation, pronunciation and vocabulary; awareness of Americanisms in English; and some grammar – presented within the needs of their academic and teaching environment. It is important for these lessons to be engaging and interactive, not one-directional lectures. Feel free to employ informal and participatory activities, and illustrate teaching techniques, through topical discussions, literature, film, theater, music, creative writing, etc. We can assist in your planning.

Vilnius is the capital and cultural center of Lithuania. The teaching and boarding facility is located at walking distance to the large and beautiful “Old City” of Vilnius (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), with its museums, galleries, restaurants, Baroque churches and other cultural venues. To explore the city of Vilnius, visit www.vilnius-tourism.lt (click on EN at the top for English), vilnius.com, and www.vilnius-life.com.

SIAULIAI: This camp is for high school and advanced late elementary students with a solid background in English and represents our classic camp structure. The primary objective is to improve their overall skills in English through daily immersion in the language with the
instructors and their fellow students. In the process they will also learn more about America, American history and culture, and Americans themselves.

Each instructor has a homeroom of about 10-12 students. Homerooms rotate during the course of the week to provide an academic meeting between all teachers and students. You need to design four lesson plans for these formal classes. We can assist you in this regard. A typical camp day includes formal classes and a session with your homeroom. Afternoons include several activities in which students choose to participate: topical discussions and debates, theater productions, sports, arts and crafts, music, movies, etc. Special activities for the full student body are also organized. Instructors lead these programs based upon their interests and experience.

Siauliai is the fourth largest city in Lithuania. The school is highly respected for its foreign language curriculum and its International Baccalaureate program. We will be located in the center of town near many museums, cultural activities, restaurants, shopping, etc. The famous “Hill of Crosses” is just outside the city. To learn more about the city of Siauliai you can visit www.inyourpocket.com/lithuania/siauliai. On the left side column click “Free Download” to obtain a very informative tourist brochure.

Expenses & Tax Deductibility: Our hosts provide room and board, transportation between the site and the airport, and some sightseeing or entertainment. Your expense is a $400 per person nonrefundable application fee and airfare; both of which are tax deductible as allowable by current law (costs for any supplies used in your lessons are also deductible). WIESCO provides you a letter of participation for your tax records. Incidental personal expenses are your responsibility.

Guidelines: WIESCO requires teachers to be college graduates, but formal teaching experience is not necessary. ESL experience is a plus. We have had many husband and wife teams at camp; in these cases each spouse is required to teach and lead a separate homeroom.

Contact Us: Our web site is www.wiesco.org. I can be contacted by email at thepine@att.net and by phone at 630-279-5646 (Chicago area).

We at WIESCO appreciate your interest in our English camps and I look forward to discussing your questions and thoughts in detail.

Robert M. Pine