



Policy on Voluntariness 2014-2017



Mariagerfjord
KOMMUNE

Policy on Voluntariness

- we want to create the right setting for volunteers in Mariagerfjord Municipality

Vision and Values

The vision for Mariagerfjord Municipality is, that the area, surrounding the most beautiful fjord in Denmark, must be an attractive place to live, reside and work. The Policy on Voluntariness must support this vision through creating the right setting for volunteers and the people, who profit by the efforts.

The voluntary world is part of the foundation in our democracy. We are rooted in a culture that has created communities and progress and it enables us to jointly face the challenging future. Volunteers contribute to an inclusive society and they have co-created our welfare society.

The object for the policy is to frame citizens' possibilities for active citizenship in binding communities and to strengthen the interaction between the voluntary world and the municipality. The policy is closely linked with the following values:

- It will be simple to volunteer Mariagerfjord Municipality.
- Active citizenship and voluntary initiative are to be supported.
- Voluntary efforts involve, influence and take place within binding agreements.

The Purpose

The purpose of the Policy on Voluntariness is to strengthen, visualize and create opportunities for voluntary efforts and volunteerism in Mariagerfjord Municipality. The policy will be an instrument for citizens and companies, voluntary organizations and associations, municipal institutions, politicians and employees, whenever voluntariness

is involved in the execution of assignments in various contexts.

The Setting of Voluntariness

Volunteerism must not replace the responsibility of the public authority, but it should be seen as a significant supplement to the welfare society. Voluntariness constantly develops in interaction with the general development of society and one must take this into consideration, when dealing with voluntariness. Volunteerism is based on volunteers' desire and initiative along with the joy and the great experiences that are connected to volunteering. Volunteers' right to choose and prioritize efforts must therefore be respected. It is important that, a matching of expectations take place between the parties involved in the voluntary initiatives.

Voluntary efforts must be rendered and received in a safe and responsible manner. An effort must therefore always be carried out with respect for relevant guidelines and regulations - e.g. the Policy on Smoking, the obtaining of a child protection certificate, safety requirements, insurance, the duty of confidentiality, et cetera.

The volunteer must be given the opportunity to receive competency development in proportion to the specific effort - e.g. in regards to organizing, recruiting, the work of the board, fundraising, including new target groups in volunteerism et cetera. Mariagerfjord Municipality will support these initiatives and preferable in cooperation with relevant collaborators.

How do we comprehend Voluntariness?

- A volunteer is a person, who does something for other people, in addition to its own family and friends, without economic gain and without any form of compulsion. Volunteerism must be arranged and planned. That is, spontaneous helpfulness is not considered volunteerism. One can volunteer in a lot of contexts - e.g. in the municipality or in the associational life - but the context is not crucial.
- There are different types of voluntariness and everyone has something to contribute with. This policy includes all types of volunteerism within all parts of life and within all ways to volunteer. The term voluntariness is therefore broadly defined as to be versatile in all areas of the voluntary arena.