FAQ's

Q: Where exactly does NOROC work?

A: Tulcea County, in eastern Romania, lies along the Danube Delta north of the Black Sea, and just south of borders with western Ukraine. It is part of the region known as "Dobrogea." NOROC’s facilities are in the county seat, Tulcea City, with a population of about 70,000.

Q: What will I do?

A: As a visiting group/intern your work will support a variety of ministries to children and youth of all ages. Projects and current needs vary. You may build something, consult about something, support selected weekly programs or work at special camps, conduct workshops, or accompany on outings. NOROC tries to use your personal gifts and fuel your interests to the greatest extent possible. We always need willing workers!

For current possibilities or other information, contact Liz Searles: <thesearles@gmail.com>

Q: How long will I stay?

A: NOROC asks visitors to schedule at least 5 full travel-free working days, especially if you would like to boat on the Delta or visit local places of interest.

Interns work one month or more. We suggest a 6-week visit for time to adapt to Romania, participate more fully in NOROC’s ministries, and have some travel and rest time. Visas limit stays to 180 days out of 365, divided into two 90-day segments, exiting Romania in between. It’s common to schedule a round trip “visa run” to Bulgaria and back if your visit exceeds 90 days.

Q: What should I bring?

A: Summers are hot and winters are cold. Romanians don’t use air conditioning and heating in the same ways Americans do. Bring modest t-shirts and pants with shorts for summer. A good pair of jeans will take you far. Think layers. Temperatures can change quickly on the Delta.

Some roads are muddy, unpaved or cobblestones. You’ll walk a lot, so bring sturdy tennis shoes or walking sandals. If you have special mobility needs, let us know about them in advance.

To visit a church or monastery, women need a skirt below the knees; men need long pants.

Pack light. Tulcea has washing machines, thrift shops, and international brands of most toiletries. Visitors customarily ask what they can bring for NOROC’s work. If you bring something for NOROC, you’ll have more room to take souvenirs home!

Q: I don't speak Romanian: how will I communicate?

A: Three NOROC staff speak excellent English, and so do some people on the street, especially young adults. A Romanian speaker will accompany you whenever you visit children or youth. You will easily pick up simple words and phrases during your stay.

Q: May I choose a child to sponsor while I am here?

A: No. NOROC gladly accepts donations to meet children’s needs. However, we discourage child sponsorships. In our experience, sponsorships create inequality, and may arouse jealousy or encourage a sense of entitlement. Kids who lack sponsors may feel left out. Often, the cutest or brightest kids open a sponsor’s heart. NOROC works with institutional staff to identify the unmet needs of every institutionalized child, as they arise.

Q: Is Romania safe for US visitors?

A: Yes. Tulcea is a very safe town in Romania, especially the areas you will visit. According to numbeo.com, the crime index in Romania is 29.47 compared to 57.3 in Chicago, IL. Petty theft is common. We recommend a money belt or zipped pockets.

Q: What is expected of me?

A: NOROC staff expect you to arrive willing and able to work as hard as we do. You need to be physically and emotionally healthy and able to meet your own needs. Please arrive with few expectations, because needs and possibilities change from day to day. If you arrive with ready hands, an open heart and an open mind, you will have a very positive experience, indeed.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: Contact Liz Searles: <thesearles@gmail.com>   Liz SKYPES at:  Flight128