

Brave Kids 2020 Call for Groups



Brave Kids 2019 Grand Finale, Polish Theatre (Wrocław, Poland)

Brave Kids is a unique cultural-educational project dedicated to uniting children from different parts of the world in a common creative endeavor. Children and youth participate in the exchange of their artistic skills, traditions, and cultures, while also creating a platform to discuss the problems that affect many communities around the globe.

bravekids.eu

Table of Contents

Brave Kids Mission	2
What Does It Mean to Be a Brave Kids Group?	2
Brave Kids Model of Working	3
Brave Kids Artistic Instructors	3
When and Where Does the Project Take Place?	3
Costs	4
Our Growing Network	4
How to Apply	6



Brave Kids Mission

Our mission is to bring together children and youth from all over the world in an atmosphere of friendship and respect for each other's cultures. We do so by joining children together in artistic experiences aimed to inspire them to imagine a better future for themselves and their communities and providing them with the tools to help realize their aspirations.

The Brave Kids creative process provides young participants with the opportunity to express themselves and their culture. **Participants are supported to discover their own unique potential and value, which raises their confidence and aspirations.** Under the guidance of professional artistic instructors who serve as facilitators, young participants teach and lead each other, encouraging them to exchange ideas, skills, and approaches. By collaborating with other young people from diverse backgrounds on a common creative project, participants develop their ability to communicate and learn to understand difference and celebrate common experience. **This valuable and exciting artistic process nurtures the emotional and social development of its young participants, helping them to make steps towards positive transformation in their own lives and in their communities in the long-term.**

Brave Kids promotes cross-cultural understanding amongst the next generation by connecting young people from different countries and backgrounds in a shared creative endeavor. By providing a platform for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and the teachers, mentors and activists who champion their rights, **Brave Kids hopes to stimulate debate and positive change to help address the inequalities facing children and youth around the world.**

Since 2016, we also have also produced Brave Kids in Slovakia, Georgia, Ukraine, Romania and Estonia.

What Does It Mean to Be a Brave Kids Group?

Brave Kids Groups are made up of **6-8 young artists** accompanied by one adult Leader. The participants should be **between 8 and 16 years old**. Leaders must be at least 18 years of age, have strong English language proficiency, and know the children in the group well. They can be a teacher or supervisor at the children's local organization or a person that used to participate in the children's group. During the project, Group Leaders participate in their own artistic program of activities and run workshops for local children, in addition to supervising and supporting their groups.

Our project has a priority to serve the most disadvantaged children, especially those who are orphans or who are marginalized in some way in their communities (because of socioeconomic status, race, religion, ability, etc.). However, we also welcome participants from more stable backgrounds who are interested in intercultural friendship. We partner with strong, socially-minded, mission-driven organizations, but we also welcome informal groups of children who have started to practice some form of art as a way to improve their lives and their communities.

Brave Kids Model of Working

The program consists of artistic workshops based on our unique "kids teach kids" model. The workshops last usually 8 hours (from 10 am to 6 pm) with 2 hours lunch breaks every day in order to prepare the common performance. With the help of professional artistic instructors who serve as facilitators, all groups teach one another the skills they have developed in lessons, workshops or classes in their home countries. There is the shift in the roles of a teacher and students in Brave Kids Project. The teacher-centred learning has been replaced with the so-called **child-centred learning** and **peer tutoring**. Children are the ones to stay active during the workshops. Students are no longer perceived as receptive and passive; instructions going from the teacher to children are reduced. Child-centered learning emphasises the learner's critical place and role in both being in charge of the educational activities and therefore achieving educational goals. In Brave Kids Project children are the ones responsible for teaching each other. Artists and group leaders create the educational situations in the way that children could perform actively and make own decisions. All children are skilled in their art forms and are ready to teach their skills to other Brave Kids participants. These skills can be diverse: traditional music and dance, break dance, circus arts, classical music, acrobatics, among others.

It is very important for us that the Group Leaders are open to our approach towards children during workshops and are able to learn and understand our model of working to support the learning process during Brave Kids and after the project.

You can find the Brave Kids Model of Work Manual in English, Polish, Georgian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Slovak [here](#).

Artistic Instructors

Artistic instructors are a passionate and experienced group of pedagogues, performers, artists who, with great sensitivity, harness the elements of childlike creativity and embody it in the beautiful performances. Everyone here teaches the other person, exchanges skills in the atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

The role of the Artistic Instructor is to create a space for kids participants to act with their talents and to learn from each other. We LET THEM DO IT which means that we are trying to give to the participants as much responsibility for the artistic work as possible.

We don't "teach" in the sense of imposing. Instead, we show, we propose, we help. We show the field of opportunities and possible solutions, but don't give them straight away. We give kids the chance to figure things out themselves. We can "rescue" them from difficulties if needed but only through dialogue and common agreement.

Being Hosted by Local Families

All participants (children and their leaders) stay in pairs with local families who volunteer to host Brave Kids. The host families provide not only accommodation and food, but also a great heart and openness to Brave Kids Participants. The host families are an important part of the project and extend our mission of intercultural dialogue and learning.

Before becoming hosts for Brave Kids, these families go through a selection process which includes: a general meeting with the host families coordinator, single meeting with the coordinator to assess conditions for hosting, a first aid course, and workshops on intercultural communication, conflict resolution, and English language, among others.

The children are hosted in the families in pairs. Therefore, we guarantee that they are never left alone with people they do not know.

If you would like to learn more about Host Families, you can watch a [short documentary](#) created after Brave Kids 2013.

When and Where Does the Project Take Place?

Brave Kids 2020 will take place in different cities in Poland in **the summer 2020**. We plan to organise Brave Kids in different periods of the year (Spain and Georgia). While we generally match groups to locations, we also welcome group input on their desired location.

** the dates and locations might be changing, we will have the confirmed list of Brave Kids hosting cities and dates by March 2020.*

Costs

Brave Kids covers the cost of food, accommodation, and local travel during the project and workshops. For groups from the Global South and from disadvantaged backgrounds, Brave Kids also can cover the costs of international travel and the Schengen visa, when needed. However, we are not able to pay for issuing passports. Our ability to cover costs is determined for each group on a case by case basis. In addition, we always encourage our groups to have an active role in the search of sponsors to be able to co-finance their international travel.

Our Growing Network



Brave Kids is a thriving initiative which is continuing to develop its reach and impact. Since its foundation, participants for Brave Kids have grown from 15 in 2009 (Brave Kids Pilot Edition) to 279 in 2019 (Brave Kids 10th Anniversary Edition).

We have cooperated with groups and organizations from Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia:

How to Apply

If you are interested in sharing your artistic skills and traditions and learning from others or for more information, please apply [here](#) **BEFORE 31 January 2020.**

or contact:

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