

Oulu for Young People
– information,
support and
activities



OULU



SIVISTYS- JA
KULTTUURIPALVELUT

„NUORTEN
OULU“

Our vision: A young person living in Oulu – tomorrow's thriving actor

Youth work means preventive education carried out through multidisciplinary cooperation. The objectives, values, methods and activities in youth work within the City of Oulu youth services are described in the Core plan for youth work (NUPS).





Oulu for Young People online

The website “Oulu for young people” is designed for young people, professionals working with youth and persons close to young people. It brings together all services available for young people. Oulu for Young People offers a wide range of information on different areas of life. It provides support and help and also functions as a meeting point. The website moreover informs on leisure activities organised by the youth services and other events taking place in Oulu. The **#sohova** service of the Youth for Oulu website is a publishing platform for content produced by young people themselves.



Youth facilities around the city

All around Oulu, there are youth facilities with guided activities notably for 7–17-year-olds. In such youth facilities children and young people can engage in hobbies and meet their age-mates in a safe environment. Some youth clubs also have band rooms and gaming rooms. The City of Oulu moreover has its own recording studio and camp centre. The Valkea shopping centre also houses a space for young people.

Diverse digital youth work

In Oulu, digital youth work is extensive and diverse by nature. Online youth work takes place through the social media channels and chat rooms of Oulu for Young People and on the social media platforms provided by the different service units that are popular with young people. Seven youth facilities house a gaming room. Activities in the gaming rooms are based on a gaming educational approach. Their weekly activities include game coaching and streaming onto #sohova.

Reaching out to young people

Outreach youth work encounters young people where they normally spend their time. In Oulu, they can be met in Valkea shopping centre and on the streets, and also online. The main focus in youth work is in the city centre of Oulu.

Close cooperation with schools

Youth services have a strong presence in the everyday life of comprehensive schools, arranging recess activities, team-building and preparatory sessions for 6th graders on how to move smoothly on to grade 7. In upper secondary school, starting from grade 7, it is important to support the sense of community within schools and enhance school attachment to prevent pupils from dropping out.

Young people participate and have a say

In Oulu, learning about active participation already starts at the daycare centre. It continues in the student association at school and in local participation groups for children and youth that operate in different parts of the city. Inclusion is also observed in the activities provided by the Byström Ohjaamo guidance centre and workshops.



At the annual City Meeting, children and young people make decisions on different kinds of acquisitions and proposals for statements. In the Youth Forum, intended for lower secondary school pupils and older students, various organisations, associations, municipal actors and political parties meet with young people.

Elected in youth elections every two years, Oulu Youth Council (ONE) collaborates with local groups throughout the city.



One-stop services at Byström Ohjaamo guidance centre

Byström Ohjaamo is a low-threshold multidisciplinary service centre for Oulu residents under 30 years of age. It provides individual guidance and counselling for young people by appointment, without appointment, by phone and online. Byström also organises events and group activities.

A young person can thus receive, from one and the same place, services provided by the City of Oulu and the wellbeing services county of Northern Ostrobothnia (Pohde), as well as the services of the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA) and the Educational Consortium OSAO (VET).

Youth workshops — kick-off for the future

Work to do and work trials are available in youth workshops for Oulu residents aged 17–29. Young people thus get the opportunity to carry out tasks in different professional fields under the guidance of a job coach. Each workshop period has an individual duration, and no previous work experience is needed.

In the workshops, each young person receives support and guidance in skills related to studying and working life and also in matters related to their everyday life: housing, wellbeing and health, financial matters, and leisure tips. An individual plan is drawn up for each young person, and individual coaching is available according to the participant's own needs. The workshops collaborate with the educational institutions in the region.

Afternoon activities for schoolchildren

In Oulu, the youth services coordinate afternoon activities for pupils, as provided for by the Basic Education Act. The afternoon groups operate at schools and in youth facilities and parish facilities. Alongside the youth services, such activities are also arranged by different organisations, the Evangelical Lutheran parish, and the patrons' associations of private schools.



Large variety of services

During holidays, the youth services arrange a variety of activities for schoolchildren: camps, excursions, courses and events. They also coordinate the Kesäfiilis activities, organised for more than 40 years already. The Kesäfiilis service gathers together information about summer activities for children and young people provided not only by the City of Oulu but also by various organisations, sports clubs and many other actors.

The multi-professional Ankkuri team promotes the wellbeing of young people and their families at an early stage with a view to preventing crime and criminal activities. The Oulu team is made up of a police officer, a social worker, a psychiatric nurse and a youth work counsellor.

The national youth information and counselling body Koordinaatti promotes competence in the youth field by producing relevant training, materials and expert services. Koordinaatti functions as part of the City of Oulu youth services since 2006.



unicef 

nuortenoulu.fi

ouka.fi/nuoret

 @nuortenoulu

 Nuorten Oulu