

# FRIEND PROGRAMME POLICY

## BACKGROUND

SAMS vänverksamhet is a part of SAMS – Samarbetsförbundet kring funktionshinder r.f., which is the co-operative federation on disability issues (interest organisation for the Swedish disability organisations in Finland). SAMS purpose is to promote and implement equality and full participation in the society for people with disabilities and their relatives within the Swedish-speaking population in Finland.

## WHAT IS VOLUNTEERING AS A FRIEND?

As a volunteer, you are a friend and a helping hand when needed. A friendship mission is based on giving about 4-10h/month of your time and doing something fun together with the person you meet. It's about everyday leisure activities, what you come up with depends on what you agree on and what joint interests you have. A friendship mission should be mutual and based on values of humanity.

SAMS agreement that the volunteer friend and the friend applicant signs makes the volunteer friend insured if an accident would happen during the meetings. If the friend applicant have a support person decision (stödpersonsbeslut) from his municipality of residence, the volunteerfriend can get reimbursement. For this a separate agreement will be made.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM ME?

- You are expected to show respect to your friend's integrity, autonomy and values.
- If an underaged participates in the meetings, we follow SAMS procedures and principles to increase children's safety. (SAMS *förfaringsätt och principer för att öka barns säkerhet.*)
- You have a vow of silence that continues even though your friendship ends.
- You are supposed to meet your friend until further notice (minimum 6 months) or during decided time. If you are prevented from attending a meeting, you have an obligation to notify your friend.
- If the contact is interrupted for more than 2 months or terminated, contact the coordinator.
- The coordinator supports you throughout the mission, it is important that you contact us if you have questions or want to discuss anything that comes up. The coordinator has a duty of confidentiality.

## EVENTS AND EDUCATION

You don't have to be educated to become a volunteer, but we strive to regularly offer courses or events for volunteers. We also try, as far as it is possible, to arrange recreational or excursion days for our friend pairs. Information on the dates of these and other current events is compiled in a newsletter sent to all volunteers by e-mail.