



Handbook of leisure activities for pupils and guardians

The Finnish model for leisure activities in Rovaniemi



Hobby schedules 2025-2026

The selection of hobbies will be published on 1.9.2025

Registration begins 8.9.2025

Hobby groups start: week 39

Hobby season ends 1.5.2026

Exceptions to schedules

Hobbies are not organized during the following holidays or public holidays:

Autumn holiday, week 42

13.10. - 17.10.2025

Christmas break, weeks 51, 52 and 1

13.12.2025 - 6.1.2026

Winter holiday, week 10

2.3. - 6.3.2026

Easter holidays

3.4. - 6.4.2026

May Day

1.5.2026



The Finnish model for leisure activities in general

The Finnish model for leisure activities is a project in which children and young people are provided with wish-based leisure activities free of charge in connection with school days. In the long term, the aim of the model is to increase the well-being of children, young people and families. The aim is to find one meaningful hobby for every child and young person and to ensure that schoolchildren can influence the hobbies arranged for them and thus find a hobby that they like.

We created our own model in Rovaniemi based on the Finnish model for leisure activities, which we tested during the spring of 2021 in the Ounasrinne and Yläkemijoki comprehensive schools, and in the following school year there were already 13 schools involved. In the semester of 2025-2026, the project involves 24 schools and hobbies are for 2.-9. graders.

Hobbies are designed based on the wishes of pupils. The selection of hobbies include, for example, handicrafts, baking, sports, youth work, arts, culture, and technology. One of the main points of the Finnish model of leisure activities is that hobbies are equal and do not depend on the family's financial situation, lacking travel opportunities or hobby equipment. Participation in hobbies is free of charge and does not require any special clothing or equipment purchases. Hobbies are organized mainly in Finnish, and activities are organized on school premises or in the immediate surroundings.



Autumn 2025

- Registration for hobby groups takes place before the start of the hobbies and is announced separately in Wilma and in the hobby calendar.
- Pupil's wishes for hobbies were asked with a survey in January 2025. Each participating school has a hobby timetable created in cooperation. Hobby timetable includes various hobby groups and other leisure activities aimed at different target groups.

Hobby organisers and instructors

The Finnish model for leisure activities is coordinated by Youth Services of the City of Rovaniemi. Hobby groups are organised and directed by local clubs, organisations, associations, teachers and youth leaders. Hobby instructors are experts in the activities they arrange and they have wide know-how on how to guide children and young people. All instructors are adults and they are bound by professional secrecy and the obligation to act in accordance with Finnish law and the guidelines on professional ethics in youth work.

The contact details of the hobby instructor are sent to the guardians in connection with registering for hobby groups. The hobby instructor is responsible for communicating with the guardians. If a new place opens in a full hobby group for the person on the waiting list, the instructor will notify you with an e-mail through the platform called Hellewi. The platform will send an automatic e-mail to the e-mail address the guardian has announced during registration.

The guardian is obligated to notify the hobby instructor if the pupil does not participate in the hobby or wants to quit. If a hobby has to be cancelled, the instructor informs the guardians, the school and the coordinator. Information is provided by e-mail, text message or by other agreed means.

Safety of hobby groups

In hobby groups, participants are insured with the city's accident insurance, as well as during school days. The journey home, which takes place immediately after the hobby, is also insured, as well as the journey home directly after school. If an accident occurs in a hobby group, the instructor knows how to act and the guardian will be informed immediately after the incident. The hobby instructor will negotiate with the guardian about the plan of action. After the incident, the instructor submits an accident report with the school secretary.

The instructor is responsible for following the city's policies on the effects of the coronavirus on the activities of the hobby group. The instructor applies the action in accordance with the city's guidelines.

School transport and after-school club

The aim is to arrange the necessary transportation home even after the hobby for pupils who travel by school transport. School transport allows equal opportunities for pupils to participate in hobby groups. Existing connections are utilised in transports, and new ones are not arranged.

The guardian will be asked the necessary information about the transports needed by the student while signing in the hobby group. The student will be transferred to a transport that allows them to get home after the hobby. The guardian is obliged to inform the driver if the student does not participate in the hobby and needs a previous ride or does not need it at all. So the same practices apply as for changes in school transport needs in general.

The guardian is obliged to contact the school himself or herself if a student on school transport enrolls in a hobby group after 14th of September and the transport schedule changes due to it. It is also the guardian's duty to notify the child's after-school club of any changes caused by participating in the hobby group.

Accessibility of hobbies

All hobbies are meant for all students in the school. The registration website states that the guardian must contact the coordinator (suomenmalli@rovaniemi.fi) if the enrolling or enrolled participant has anything special to consider. After that, the coordinator consults the student welfare services or the teacher, and if it is seen that the participant or the group in question needs additional support, we grant the hobby organizer the opportunity to include another instructor in the group. In this way, we aim to ensure that the instructor has the necessary resources to guide the hobby and that the participants have equal opportunities to participate in the group.

Hobby recipe

We focus on taking into account children and young people who do not have any hobbies. The key for finding and identifying these pupils is the staff of the schools; school nurses and student welfare, as well as youth leaders and school youth workers. They have a hobby recipe -model in use. When talking to students, professionals ask if the pupil has a meaningful hobby. If the pupil doesn't have any hobbies, and would like to start one, the employee can suggest making a hobby recipe.

The hobby recipe is made only with the pupil's consent and the permission of the guardian. A hobby recipe made by an adult working with pupils is notified to the coordinator, after which the coordinator or the youth leader of the area contacts the guardian or, with his or her permission, directly to the student.

In the meeting the pupil and the coordinator or a youth leader discuss together about what kind of activities pupil likes and what kind of hobbies are available in the area.

The youth leader is well aware about school's hobby timetable and the local parties organising hobby activities, and is thus able to guide the pupil to activities that interest them. If necessary, the instructor can visit the new hobby together with the pupil in order to make it as easy as possible to attend to a new hobby group.

More information

The coordination of the project, youth services coordinator
suomenmalli@rovaniemi.fi

More information about the Finnish model of leisure activities on the city's website:

www.rovaniemi.fi/Maksuttomat-harrastukset-kouluilla

Facebook: Harrastamisen Suomen malli Rovaniemi

Instagram: harrastamisenrollo

Sign in to hobby groups:

<https://uusi.kuntapalvelut.fi/rovaniemi/en/>

