

VENTURER CAMP 2023

Info Pack v0

An Introduction to all things Venturer Camp 2023

16th December 2022



Contents

1	Welcome From Thomas	2
2	Meet The Team	3
3	Bookings Information	5
4	Finance	6
5	Site & Infrastructure	8
6	Food	9
7	Accessibility	10
8	Safeguarding & DBS	11
9	Programme	12
10	Sustainability & Environment	13
11	Pre-Camp	14
12	Volunteering	15

Section 1

Welcome From Thomas

Welcome to the Info Pack V0!

We're putting together this info pack to bring you all the information which you might need at this stage of planning for Venturer Camp 2023 within your district. We'll try to keep this as short as possible, cramming as much into it as we can.

If you want to get in touch with me for any reason, feel free to drop me an email to info@venturercamp.org.uk.

PROOF

Section 2

Meet The Team

2.1 Thomas Boxall – Camp Coordinator

Hey there, I'm Thomas and I'm the coordinator for Venturer Camp 2023! Outside of Venturer Camp, I'm on General Council and was recently on DF Committee. I'm really excited to be coordinating the next Venturer Camp and can't wait for you to see what we've got planned!

2.2 Millie Burgh – Woodcraft Folk Events Assistant

Hiya, I'm Millie! Lots of you will have met me over the last few years as I co-coordinated Venturer Camp 2019 and worked on Common Ground as the camp assistant. I'm looking forward to using everything I've learnt from these two events to support another volunteer team on another big Woodcraft Folk camp!

2.3 Wilf and Sadie Lamont and Emma Britton-Voss – Central KP Team

We are the central KP team, responsible for designing the menu and organising all the food for Venturer Camp 2023. We are a group of three DFs, including a sibling duo.

Hi, I'm Emma. I helped with central food at Common Ground and was co-KP for DF Camp 2022. I am also on the DF committee and General Council.

Hi, I'm Wilf. I also worked on the central food team at Common Ground. You may have met me on the Standing Orders Committee.

Hi, I'm Sadie. I have attended many Woodcraft Folk camps and events, and I'm excited to be working with Emma and my twin brother, Wilf.

We are looking forward to meeting everyone and providing the food for Venturer Camp 2023.

2.4 Joe and Chris Bowler – Coordinators of the Café and allergy kitchen

Hey we're the Bowler brothers, lifelong woodcraft busybodies. We're testing out a lot of new ideas to improve food accessibility and easing the burden on village KPs. We're excited to see you all again, so come say hi at the cafe if you want to talk over a nice coffee.

2.5 Sapna Agarwal and Mollie Saunders – Volunteer Support

Hi there, we're the PEB team - here to support volunteers at Venturer camp. Our point of contact, Sapna, will be helping those coming to camp to prepare, and Mollie will be available to assist on camp. (For anyone who came to Common Ground, PEB is back!)

The PEB, or Positive Energy Bubble, is a new initiative focused on creating a supportive environment for volunteers. The team will provide a space where volunteers can relax, recharge, and connect with others. We will also offer refreshments and potentially even massages or aromatherapy. In the past, there have been instances of volunteer burnout at camp, and we want to prevent this from happening at Venturer camp. We encourage open communication and offloading, so feel free to vent about even the smallest issues.

As a brand-new team, we are flexible and willing to adapt to the needs of volunteers. We invite you to join us and help shape the PEB's Woodcraft legacy.

PROOF

Section 3

Bookings Information

We will be using a modified version of the Common Ground booking system for this camp. In January, we will publish template forms which groups can use to gather information on their participants coming which can then be inputted into the booking system.

3.1 Bookings Timeline

27th January 2023	Bookings Open
12th April 2023	Early Bird Booking Deadline
26th May 2023	Final Booking Deadline

3.2 Early Bird Bookings

We will be doing Early Bird Bookings slightly differently for Venturer Camp 2023. Rather than a reduction in price, those who book & pay before the Early Bird Booking Deadline will receive a limited edition t-shirt. To claim this t-shirt, you will still have to be booked in after the final booking deadline. We'll be in touch with contacts for those bookings to collect t-shirt sizes. We will be giving the t-shirts out at pre-camp!

3.3 Individual Bookings

To simplify the bookings process, we will request individual adults who are booking themselves in, do so through a booking secretary. This is to reduce the administrative burden of chasing people to find out where they want to camp when we get closer to camp. Information on how this is to be done will be released closer to when bookings open. If you are a lone adult who wishes to camp with a particular group, please contact that group to book through their booking secretary.

Section 4

Finance

This section will outline the cost of camp as well as a number of other financial related points.

4.1 Cost Of Camp

Venturer Camp 2023 will cost £150 for the entire camp for under 18s and £50 for the entire camp for over 18s. This price difference is to recognise the significant contribution made by our volunteers, without whom the event would not be possible. Under 18s who are volunteering with significant roles are also able to get the reduced fee. An access fund will be launched to reduce any financial barriers young camp participants might face. Please contact info@venturercamp.org.uk for more information on this.

For those wishing to come for shorter spans of time, this is broken down as follows:

Under 18s £21.50 per night
Over 18s £7.50 per night

4.2 Fundraising

The following table has some ideas of grants to apply to/ways to fundraise. The links will take you to pages on the Common Ground website which include more detailed guidance on each idea. Additional advice and support is available from fundraising@woodcraft.org.uk.

Funding Source	Difficulty	Likely-hood of Success	Amount you could raise	Conditions
Local Giving Magic Little Grants	Easy	Medium	£500	The application process could take as little as 10 minutes
Gift Aid	Medium	Guaranteed	25% of event fee (donation)	Parents paying for subs or camps must pay some income tax or capital gains tax
National Lottery Awards For All	Medium	Medium	Up to £10,000	Post-pandemic, the number of applications is quite high. Applications are accepted all year round, with turnaround time around 12 weeks

Donation-based crowd-funding	Easy	High	Varies	Crowdfunding is a way of raising donations by asking a large number of people each for a small amount of money. You have several platforms to choose from. Consider pages such as GoFundMe, Justgiving or Crowdfunder. Check carefully that the page fee is 0%
Lions Club or Rotary Club	Easy	Medium	Varies	Your local philanthropic organisations may donate towards camp costs. Call your local club to enquire. It's good for raising our profile too!

4.3 Travel Access Fund

Bibilins is rurally located, despite being in the midlands! As a result of this there will be a vast difference in the amount which campers pay to get to the site. To help campers cover the cost of travel, we will be introducing a Travel Access Fund. In February we will publish guidance on how the fund will work, but in essence those with the shortest journeys will be asked to make a solidarity contribution to support the costs of those campers travelling the furthest.

4.4 Additional Costs

When advertising the cost of Venturer Camp to young people, districts should take into account additional costs which they may incur in the process of getting to Venturer Camp. These costs might include (however are not limited to):

- Resources for village-level activities
- Subsidies for travel to & from the site
- Replacing or purchasing village camp equipment (e.g. first aid kit, lighting)
- Snacks whilst travelling to & from the site

4.5 Paying For Things On Site

We will have a cafe which will sell food and drinks (including proper coffee!) as well as a merchandise stand which will sell Limited Edition Venturer Camp 2023 merch. More information on what will be sold and the approximate costs of items will be released closer to the time.

Whilst on site, we will request card payments where possible. This is to reduce the administration required for cash handling and banking of cash every day. We will, of course, take cash as we understand that not all Venturers will have access to bank cards.

Section 5

Site & Infrastructure

We are excited to announce that we will be returning to Biblins for Venturer Camp 2023. Biblins is a Woodcraft Folk run campsite in the Wye Valley, Forest of Dean. The team at Biblins are working hard on improvements to the site, installing a solar array and moving Camp Koodoo to the west side, freeing up the middle pitches to become our central area.

5.1 Contact On Site

Biblins valley is a dead-zone of mobile signal.

On site there is a landline telephone which will be staffed for the duration of the camp as well as a camp WhatsApp number.

There will be limited charging facilities and young people should be prepared to spend the majority of the week without a charged phone, unless they require it for medical reasons.

5.2 Shuttle Busses

On the first and last day of camp, we will be running shuttle buses to and from Hereford train station. Once camp bookings have opened, we will open shuttle bus bookings. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

5.3 Village Infrastructure

We are really pleased that a number of local districts are happy for us to use their camping equipment to fully equip each village with a kitchen and a dining/activities marquee! The core team are in contact with these districts to coordinate transport of equipment and exactly what we can borrow. We have also put money aside in the budget to support the districts with paying for van hire to transport the equipment. If your district hasn't been contacted by the team and you would like to discuss your district's equipment being used at Venturer Camp 2023, please email info@venturercamp.org.uk.

Section 6

Food

The menu will be organised by our central KP team, ingredients delivered to your village daily. Contact food@venturercamp.org.uk if you want to be a village KP.

6.1 Cafe & Allergy Team

The KP team has an additional division for Venturer Camp 2023, the Allergy kitchen team can provide partial or complete replacements of the main camp menu to meet individual dietary needs. Contact cafe.allergy@venturercamp.org.uk if, due to complex dietary needs, you will need an altered menu for camp.

Section 7

Accessibility

We are really keen to make Venturer Camp 2023 as accessible to as many people as possible. Bunkbed accommodation is available in The Burrow. Disabled access wet rooms are available on site.

To help us with this, we need to hear from you. Is there something we can do to make the camp more accessible for you? Get in touch to info@venturercamp.org.uk.

PROOF

Section 8

Safeguarding & DBS

All campers aged 18 years and over will need to follow Woodcraft Folk's [Screening & Vetting procedures](#), this includes:

- Submitting two suitability references
- Completing an enhanced DBS
- PVG membership (in Scotland only)

All volunteers are advised to check their DBS status before April 2023.

The Safeguarding team will support camp organisers with a risk assessment, which will be shared with all Village Co-ordinators after pre-camp.

If you would like to discuss any safeguarding or child protection issues please contact safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk

Section 9

Programme

We will be taking feedback from Common Ground and running the mornings as Village Mornings (where little-to-no central program is run) and the afternoons as Central Afternoons (where centres will run workshops and sessions). Centres may create activity packs for villages that lead into future workshops. The cafe and chill spaces will be open in the morning as well as Safe Spaces and Volunteer Support spaces.

Following feedback from Venturer Camp 2019 we also plan to offer activities such as climbing and canoeing, fully benefiting from our location.

If you want to get involved with a centre, either to coordinate a centre or run workshops in one, drop an email to programme@venturercamp.org.uk.

9.1 Theme

As you may have seen on social media and our website, we have chosen the theme Mythology for Venturer Camp 2023! We are really excited to see what programme comes out with that theme and what villages will do around that theme.

Section 10

Sustainability & Environment

In 2019, Woodcraft Folk declared a climate emergency. As an organisation, we are committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Venturer Camp 2023 is a great opportunity to educate young people on sustainable values.

The organising team will be taking actions in a number of ways to minimise our carbon footprint across all areas of activity before, during and after the event. However, this is not just the responsibility of the organising team, everyone who comes to Venturer Camp and is a part of it is responsible for reducing their individual carbon footprint. More resources to support this will be made available in the new year.

The Sustainability and Environment team will be working with volunteers to ensure the camp is enjoyable for all whilst keeping the environmental impact as low as we can.

The Programme team will run a series of Sustainability workshops throughout the camp where young people will be able to engage at a practical level about what Sustainability is and how best it can be incorporated into everyday life.

Biblins Campsite, is not on the mains gas or electricity grid therefore all our power will be provided from renewable sources, such as the new solar array being installed this spring or small solar systems brought by districts. We are currently exploring ways to minimise our bottled gas usage. We encourage you in your group settings to discuss the option of our Veggie or Vegan menu, as we source ingredients from local suppliers and look to reduce food waste.

Furthermore, we will be exploring ways in which groups can travel to Biblins, reducing their carbon footprint. More information on this will be made available in the new year.

Our decarbonisation work will be led by the Sustainability and Environment team. They can be contacted via info@venturercamp.org.uk

Section 11

Pre-Camp

The Pre-Camp for Venturer Camp 2023 will mostly be held virtually. We will also be hosting a weekend on site in early July as a Board Meeting where we will invite leaders and 1 or 2 Venturers from each group booked in to come and meet the other groups in their village. More information on Pre-Camp, both the on site Board Meeting and virtual sessions, will be made available on our website in Spring next year.

PROOF

Section 12

Volunteering

12.1 Get Involved

Venturer Camp 2023 is run almost entirely by volunteers. We wouldn't be able to put it together without their support.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to make the camp awesome! If you want to get involved, drop info@venturercamp.org.uk an email.

We are currently looking for volunteers with an interest in

- Communications
- Finance
- Bookings Administration
- Running Centres
- Accessibility On Camp
- Atmosphere Coordinator
- Site Services

More information on roles can be found via our website venturercamp.org.uk/get-involved/.

If there's not a role listed which suits you and you want to get involved, please do drop us an email and we'll find a role for you!

12.2 Support for Volunteers

The Positive Energy Bubble, PEB, is back for Venturer Camp 2023! They are here to support volunteers so the volunteers feel supported in bringing young people to Venturer Camp 2023. PEB will offer suggestions over the months leading up to the event on how Volunteers can reduce the burden on themselves and at Venturer Camp, provide a space where volunteers can relax and destress. For more information on their work, contact volunteer.support@venturercamp.org.uk.