VENTURER CAMP 2023
Report to General Council

For February 2023 meeting

Saturday 4th February 2023

This paper has been written to give an overview of where the Venturer Camp 2023 Project is currently. As of writing it, I'm not sure how long it will end up being. If any questions arise or you want more information on anything discussed, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Thomas Boxall
Venturer Camp 2023 Coordinator

2023-01-27

Contents

Section 1

Introduction

Venturer Camp will be taking place between the 5th and 12th August 2023 at Biblins Campsite, Herefordshire. These dates were chosen to align with the Scottish term dates as well as the Finnish International camp dates. The team has access to various areas of Biblins between the 1st and 16th August 2023. We do not have sole use of the campsite during this time, there will be other groups camping during some of the setup/ takedown days.

Broadly speaking, the camp is in a good place. People have been found for the majority of the core roles, a few outstanding roles remain unfilled however these are of less concern. Teams have begun to plan their components of the camp, with some further ahead than others.

Millie, Events Assistant, has been invaluable in handling the booking of essential services/ equipment and her focus will now shift to supporting teams with their individual tasks. She has also been extremely valuable with her communications experience to support with communications.

Section 2

Team Update

This section will provide an update on how the coordinating team is structured, where additional support would be needed, a request for General Council and some information about meetings & communications between the team as this may be useful to other active/ future projects.

2.1   Team Size

As of the first draft of this paper, the team structure is as follows.
Please Note: this may not be accurate as these are the figures which the Camp Coordinator has.

Team Name	Core Volunteers	Supporting Volunteers
Camp Coordinator	1	0
Programme Team	2	4
Site Services/ Production Team	3	0
Communications Team	0	0
Food Team	3	3
Cafe & Allergy Kitchen Team	2	2
Volunteer Support Team	2	0
Finance Team	1	0
Admin Team	0	0
Transport	2	0
Sustainability & Environment	3	0
Head Stewards	1	-
Booking System Development	1	0

Table 2.1: Volunteer team breakdown

We also have the support of a number of members of staff: Millie is providing support to a number of teams; Debs is providing support to the health & Safety paperwork as part of the admin role; Felix is providing some support to the programme team with local

contacts; and Richard is providing support to the finance team.
Contact information for the volunteer team is available through our website.

2.2   Recruitment Needs

As you may be able to see from the table above, there are a few gaps in volunteer numbers. There are a number of roles where the camp would benefit from some additional support. The full list of roles we are actively recruiting for can be found on our website.

2.3   Meetings

The 'core team' have been meeting monthly for a check-in style meeting with a short business agenda attached. This is something which DF Committee do and it was felt that this approach would give a good chance for issues to be reported earlier and support can be easily sought. The meetings take place on alternating evenings within the week on Zoom.

Attendance to the meeting is good and teams provide an update as to where they are. Through this support needs and next steps can be identified.

2.4   Communications

The whole team are using Discord to communicate. This has been configured such that there are areas for 'all volunteers' and areas where the 'core team' can discuss things separately. Each team (for example, food) have their own space where they can create text & voice channels.   Teams have been invited to join the server where the 'coordinators' for that role are able to communicate with the 'supporting volunteers'.

The whole team has engaged with this really well and, for the most part, are active on it. Using a platform of this nature (channel based discussion) has had a really positive impact on the coordination of the camp and has reduced the need for emails to almost none.

The team have a folder within the `Events - Current & Historical` Shared Drive where they store their data.

Section 3

Budget & Finance

Before we were able to recruit a volunteer treasurer, Debs drew up a draft budget. This is yet to come to General Council/ Finances & General Purposes Committee for approval.

The draft budget takes into considerations costs from Venturer Camp in 2019 as well as costs from Common Ground and inflation. There have been a number of revisions to the budget to include additional categories as the camp planning and planning for events leading up to the camp have progressed.
The budget has been designed such that we should break even.

The current budget is designed for 400 participants, 300 of those paying full price. The other 100 will be volunteer places who will be paying the reduced volunteer price.

The full budget has been included in the appendix.

3.1   Pricing

The table below outlines the pricing strategy for Venturer Camp 2023. More information on bookings can be found in the Booking section.

Before	Age Bracket	Whole Camp PPP	1 night PPP
26th May 2023	Under 18	£150	£21.50
	18 and over	£50	£7.50
22nd July 2023	Under 18	£225	£32.25
	18 and over	£75	£11.25
12th August 2023	Under 18	£300	£43
	18 and over	£100	£15

Table 3.1: Pricing breakdown by date, age, and duration at camp

Section 4

Bookings

Bookings opened on the 27th January at 6pm. There have been a number of applications to book so far.

4.1   Booking System

After a small amount of research and debate, it was decided that the best booking system to use would be a modified version of Ralph's Common Ground booking system.

A number of modifications have been made by Ralph, including a significant security increase however fundamentally it is the same system we used for Common Ground.

A booking handbook has been produced detailing how to use the system.

4.2   Booking Timeline

Date	Booking Event
27th January 2023	Bookings Open
12th April 2023	Early Bird Booking Deadline
26th May 2023	Final Booking Deadline
22nd July 2023	Late Booking Deadline

Table 4.1: Booking Timeline

The Final booking Deadline is being advertised as the final opportunity to book. In reality, we will allow bookings right up until the end of camp, however we have stressed in the payment policy that after 10th June 2023 food orders will have been placed and we cannot guarantee that dietary needs can be met after this date. Until we reach the final booking deadline, we will not be outwardly advertising the not-closing nature of the bookings.

4.3   Early Bird Booking Deadline

If a booking and deposit is receive before the early bird booking deadline, the participants booked will receive a free, limited edition t-shirt. This will be a limited

edition design, specifically for those who booked before the early bird booking deadline. There is no financial discount for booking before 12th April 2023.

Venturer Camp 2023, a project by Woodcraft Folk, will bring together 13-17 year olds from across the UK to camp together and live by the Woodcraft Folk values for a week in the summer of 2023. Check out our website (venturercamp.org.uk) and our social media pages for more information.