

# **VENTURER CAMP 2023**

## Info Pack v1

Now crammed full of useful Venturer Camp info

5th May 2023



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# Section 1

## Introduction

Welcome to info pack v1!

This info pack comes to you a bit later than originally anticipated, but fear not as it is crammed full of useful information about Venturer Camp!

As of writing this section, we're sitting at a whopping 265 bookings! If you haven't booked yet and you would like to, be quick as bookings close on 26th May 2023. Camp costs £150 for those aged under 18 and £50 for those aged 18 and up.

If you've got a question or would like to know some more information, feel free to drop us a DM on our social media or send us an email ([info@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:info@venturercamp.org.uk)).

### 1.1 Venturer Camp 2023, a reminder

Back for 2023, Venturer Camp will once again be returning to Woodcraft Folk's Biblins Youth Campsite in Wye Valley near Hereford from the 5th to 12th August 2023. Venturer Camp is open to participants aged 13-17 due to the Covid pandemic and will have the theme of Mythology.

### 1.2 Find Out More

Venturer Camp lives across the internet. You can find out more about us on our website ([venturercamp.org.uk](http://venturercamp.org.uk)), on the Woodcraft website ([woodcraft.org.uk](http://woodcraft.org.uk)), on our Instagram ([@venturercamp](https://www.instagram.com/venturercamp)) and on our Facebook ([/wcfventurercamp](https://www.facebook.com/wcfventurercamp)). We will also send emails to those who have booked and to Venturer group contacts with key information in it.

### 1.3 Future Publications

We are aiming to publish Info Pack v2 by 15th June 2023. This will contain most of the information which you will need before you come to camp including the finalised kit list; finalised travel information; expectations of villages including central camp clan jobs and village officeholder roles; and lots more!

We will be publishing the preliminary village handbook by 16th July. This will be provided in a printed form to villages on site.

## Section 2

# Pre-Camp

Venturer Camp 2023 will be hosting the majority of its pre-camp sessions online to save money, reduce the environmental impact and make them more accessible!

We will also be hosting an on-site weekend in early July to finalise logistics.

### 2.1 Virtual Pre-Camp

Virtual sessions will be held each week from 17th April to the end of June through Zoom. Each session has a different topic and recordings of the sessions along with any presentations used will be made available on our website.

Upcoming sessions can be found on the [calendar page of our website](#).

### 2.2 On-Site Pre-Camp

On-Site Pre-Camp will take place from the 30th June - 2nd July at Biblins Youth Campsite.

The weekend will not be a taster of the camp, it will be an opportunity for up-to one leader and one venturer (or one person from a non-venturer containing booking) to visit the site, review logistics and meet with other leaders who will be in your village!

Information on booking for on-site pre-camp will be sent to booking contacts by mid-May.

## Section 3

# Travelling To Site

The full address of the site is as follows:

Biblins Youth Campsite

The Doward

Whitchurch

Ross-on-Wye

HR9 6DX

OS grid reference: SO 549 145

### 3.1 Shuttle Buses

We will have coaches from Hereford station to the camp on Saturday 5th August and from camp to Hereford station on Saturday 12th August. Unfortunately we won't be able to provide any transport on the days in between.

Organising the coaches is always a little chicken and egg, as we know groups want to organise trains to fit with the coaches but we also want to organise the coaches to both fit with train arrival times and ensure everyone who needs one has a seat. We know no one will be booking trains for a couple of months yet but it would be incredibly useful if groups could let us know if they are considering travelling by train so we can start to have a vague idea of who might need spaces on the coach.

Please take a moment to email [coaches@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:coaches@venturercamp.org.uk) if you know you are, are likely to, or might be travelling by train on either Saturday and if you have it the rough number of people travelling and rough arrival time (this could be eg some time between 1 and 4 pm). We really don't mind very vague information, some knowledge will help us with planning.

If you have any questions about coaches please also do drop Jeni and David an email at [coaches@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:coaches@venturercamp.org.uk)

### 3.2 Site Access

The main site access track is unsuitable for coaches, vehicles weighing over 7.5 tonnes or vehicles over 6ft wide. There is a coach access route on the Gloucestershire side of the river which is graded and rated for 40 ton timber lorries. This can be used for coaches. Please note that all luggage/ equipment will need to be carried across the suspension bridge.

If you require use of the coach access route, please contact the Coordination & Event Admin team via [info@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:info@venturercamp.org.uk) as we will need to ensure the access gate is unlocked for you and co-ordinate the arrival of vehicles to ensure no traffic jams!

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## Section 4

# Communications During The Event

The Venturer Camp 2023 coordination team recognises that for many young people being away from home can be a nerve wracking experience both for the young people and for the parents/ carers of those young people.

The site has extremely poor mobile network coverage, it should be expected that no mobile service is available on site. There is limited service a short walk away from the site, we anticipate that young people will walk to this location as part of their morning activities a few times throughout the event.

In the case of a serious emergency, the Coordination & Events Admin team can pass messages to participants & volunteers at the camp. They will be contactable via the following methods:

Email	info@venturercamp.org.uk
WhatsApp	<i>number to be announced in next info pack</i>
Phone	01600 890 850

Table 4.1: Contact methods during the event

### 4.1 WiFi Access

There is extremely limited WiFi available at the site. This will only be available to those who present a legitimate requirement for needing access to it. Obtaining exam results is a legitimate reason - so all of those who are expecting their Scottish Higher results on August 9th will be given access on that day.

### 4.2 Electricity Access

There is no access to electricity for the general population at camp. Participants and Volunteers should ensure they bring enough portable charging capabilities to last the duration of the event.

# Section 5

## Equipment

### 5.1 Village Kit

A number of local districts/ districts camping at Biblins before or after Venturer Camp's kit will be used to supply the four villages with kit.

The central camp will contribute to the cost of hiring a van to move their kit so there is no expectation for groups within the village to contribute to this.

The Coordination & Event Administration team will be in contact with the kit providing districts to coordinate transportation/ storage on site.

### 5.2 Sleeping Tents

It is expected that all participants & volunteers provide their own sleeping tents. It may be the case that participant/ volunteer's district will provide enough tents for all to sleep in, or that individuals are expected to bring their own.

If bringing sleeping tents for yourself/ your delegation to camp is a problem, please get in touch with the Coordination & Event Administration team via [info@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:info@venturercamp.org.uk).

### 5.3 Kit List

Anything brought to camp is brought at the owners risk. We recommend not bringing valuables or keeping them on your person at all times.

#### 5.3.1 It is suggested that everyone on site brings

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow, roll-mats etc
- Eating Kit
- Wash Kit
- Clothes (be prepared for all weathers)
- Torch
- Waterproof jacket & trousers (if you have them)



- Boots/ outdoor shoes which are comfortable to hike in
- Flip-Flops/ sandals
- Towel
- Something to put dirty laundry in
- A refillable water bottle
- Sun Cream
- Hat

### **5.3.2 Participants wishing to take part in the Adventurous Activities will also need**

- Clothes you don't mind getting wet & dirty in the river
- Spare bin bag for wet clothes
- Towel you don't mind using straight out of the river
- Snug fitting trainers

### **5.3.3 Do not bring**

Anyone found on site with the items listed below will have the item confiscated

- Nuts or products containing nuts
- Hi-vis jackets
- Walkie Talkies/ handheld radio communication devices
- National Flags
- Hair Straighteners/ Dryers
- Unnecessary Electrical items
- Items of high sentimental/ monetary value.

## Section 6

# Food

### 6.1 Draft Menu

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Saturday 5th			Pesto Pasta with halloumi and sweetcorn
Sunday 6th	Eggy Bread	Leek and potato soup with rolls and cheese	'Korma' curry and rice
Monday 7th	Porridge	Sandwiches with egg mayo and coleslaw	Pasta with tomato sauce and meatballs
Tuesday 8th	Fried Breakfast	Falafel and wraps	Chilli and potato with kidney beans and veggie mince
Wednesday 9th	Bircher Muesli	Bagels with cold cuts, cream cheese and coleslaw	Lentil dahl; Cauliflower curry; and green bean curry with rice
Thursday 10th	Garlic fried bread	Lentil soup with rolls and cheese	Sausages and mash with gravy, fried onions and peas
Friday 11th	Porridge	Hot dogs with sauerkraut	Stir-fry with rice noodles
Saturday 12th	Leftovers	Leftovers	

Table 6.1: Draft menu

Puddings will rotate so each village will have a different pudding on each day. The pink cells are meals that contain meat, vegetarian and vegan options will be available for all meals.

## Section 7

# Programme

Below is an itinerary for Venturer Camp! Please note this is subject to change, we have included it to give you an idea of what will happen during the week but timings are not confirmed yet.

There is no central programme in the mornings to give you a chance to bond and do clan in your villages. You should decide together when to do breakfast, morning circle, lunch, clan, and if you wish village activities, just make sure there's time to fit everything in before central activities start at 14:30! Each village will also be allocated one day where all their participants get the chance to do either canoeing or climbing (or maybe both subject to final numbers), and this will include a morning and an afternoon session, so there will be one day where your village has central programme in the morning as well as the afternoon.

Day	14:30	16:00	16:30	17:30	18:00
Saturday 5th	Arrivals				Dinner
Sunday 6th	Centres (hiroshima day focus)	Break	Centres (hiroshima day focus)	Break	Dinner
Monday 7th	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Dinner
Tuesday 8th	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Dinner
Wednesday 9th	Wide game			Break	Dinner
Thursday 10th	AGM, centres and adventure activities	Break	AGM, centres and adventure activities	Break	Dinner
Friday 11th	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Centres and adventure activities	Break	Dinner

Table 7.1: Afternoon Programme Schedule

Day	19:30	20:30	22:00	22:30
Saturday 5th	News	Central Programme - Band(s)	Sign in	Programme continues until 23:30
Sunday 6th	News	Village Programme	Sign in	
Monday 7th	News	Central Programme - Ceilidh	Sign in	Programme continues until 23:30
Tuesday 8th	News	Village Programme	Sign in	
Wednesday 9th	News	Merry moot, with an exciting guest host	Sign in	Programme continues until 23:30
Thursday 10th	News	Village Programme	Sign in	
Friday 11th	News	Central Programme - Band(s)	Sign in	Programme continues until 1am

Table 7.2: Evening Programme Schedule

The colours in this table reflect mini themes, based on the main theme of Mythology, which will change every few days. We'll announce these soon so you can prepare your costumes!

## 7.1 Centres we have confirmed

**Mythology** coordinated by Eastbourne Venturers and DFs - a centre to explore mythology from all over the world and all time periods, through discussions, craft and more

**Activism** coordinated by Cherry Tucker - a centre to explore activism regarding the climate, anti-racism, LGBTQI+ rights, feminism and more

**Media** coordinated by Gus - a centre where you can create your own news pieces, adverts, or other videos to be shown on the camp news each night

**Solar Cinema** coordinated by Ash Taylor - a centre where you can see blockbusters and smaller releases, including some bigger events where discussions and Q&A sessions follow the film

**Radio** coordinated by Tyler Eckersall - a centre where venturers can run their own radio station, be that a talk show, an interview, simply djing, or a mixture

## 7.2 Centres we would like but need more volunteers for

**MEST-UP** Woodcraft Folk DFs' peer support project, where participants can get advice on topics such as sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol, mental health and more

**Nature/ Bushcraft** a space to explore our gorgeous surroundings at Biblins, and/or learn some bushcraft skills

**Arts** a mixture of drop-in craft activities and jamming, and more structured performing and visual arts workshops

There will also be activities in the cafe, and a wide game on the Wednesday afternoon. The wide game coordinator would appreciate some more help though, especially from anyone who has run a wide game at a big camp before!

If you are interested in volunteering with any of the above, or would like to offer something else to the programme, we'd love to hear from you! Get in touch on [programme@venturercamp.org.uk](mailto:programme@venturercamp.org.uk).

## Section 8

# International Volunteers

Venturer Camp will be supported by a team of international volunteers. This year we will be supported by two European Solidarity Corps volunteers, who are supporting activities at both Cudham and Biblins until September. Sabrina and Noemie are really excited about supporting Venturer Camp activities during their placement.

The ESC volunteers will also be joined by a team of 15 international volunteers recruited by Concordia. The team will come from Slovenia, France, Spain, Mexico, Armenia and Turkey. The Concordia team will arrive at Biblins before camp to help set up and will remain on site after camp to help take down.

Please span the world with friendship and give our international volunteers a warm Woodcraft Folk welcome.

## Section 9

# Decarbonisation

Woodcraft Folk have a Decarbonisation Policy to help us address the climate emergency. Everyone attending Venturer Camp 2023 should think about ways they can reduce their carbon footprint at the event.

### 9.1 Electricity

Biblins, the site, has no mains electricity. As such, all the power we use will be generated from solar panels. The Venturer Camp team will be installing additional temporary panels to increase capacity of the permanent installation at Biblins. The power we have will not be unlimited, however we will have enough for the main stage, cinema, radio station and to ensure sufficient lighting is available across the site. There will be no electrical access for the general population at the event.

### 9.2 Gas

Heat for cooking will be provided by bottled gas. The shower blocks on site are heated by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Where possible, please keep gas consumption to a minimum.

### 9.3 Water & Waste Water

The site has a mains water supply of clean water. The waste (toilets and showers) drain into septic tanks. Water consumption should be kept to a minimum.

Shower products *should* not contain plastics where possible and *must* not contain nuts as there is a site-wide ban on nuts.

### 9.4 Waste

The waste on site will be collected throughout the event. Biblins has provision for recycling and general waste disposal. Further information on waste disposal will be made available in the Village Handbook.

### 9.5 Food

The KP team are working to minimise carbon emissions.

## Section 10

# Volunteer Wellbeing

Volunteer wellbeing is just as important as the safety and wellbeing of the young people. Without volunteers the camp wouldn't be happening. If you are coming to Venturer Camp 2023 as a volunteer there are a number of things you could put in place before the camp

- Get to know the other adults you are coming to camp with so you feel more able to talk to each other if/when you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed.
- Spread the workload of preparing for the camp. There are many jobs volunteers who are not intending to attend the camp can take on such as fundraising, organising transport, helping young people acquire camping equipment etc. The people doing the planning don't need to be the same people actually going to the camp.
- Arrange in advance, between you, for each facilitating adult in your group to have some time 'off' being responsible for the young people and the camp during your week at Biblins. That could be an afternoon or even a full day, depending on your collective capacity.
- Plan to bring something to do to camp that you enjoy - a book to read, a craft project, sketchbook, musical instrument, whatever you would do in your spare time at home.
- Remember to pack some home comfort whether that's your slippers, your favourite mug to drink out of, a hot water bottle etc.

### 10.1 Positive Energy Bubble

During the camp itself all volunteers are invited to spend time at PEB - the Positive Energy Bubble - for some quiet time, to have someone to talk to, or even just as somewhere to get a hot drink and have a sit down



## Section 11

# Safeguarding & Risk Management

### 11.1 Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding support and response will be provided by an on-site Safeguarding Team, which includes:

- Debs McCahon
- Felix Pepler
- Catherine Tuffrey

Each Village will be also required to nominate a Safeguarding Lead.

### 11.2 Site Stewards

Volunteer stewards will also be available on site - answering questions and checking people on and off site.

More information about stewards, and their role will be available in the next Information Pack.

### 11.3 DBS/ PVG Screening

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 May 2023 and a minimum of 4 weeks before the event. Please contact your District Membership Secretary or [membership@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:membership@woodcraft.org.uk) for help with your DBS or PVG application.

### 11.4 Adult Ratios

Each group attending camp will need to bring enough adults to supervise the young people in their group - supervision is best done by adults who know the young people,

understand their support needs and already benefit from a positive relationship.

Like a typical group night, every group must have a minimum of two screened adults present at all times (travelling to and from the site and throughout camp). The coordination team recommends a minimum of three screened adults accompany groups, as this will allow for volunteers to have time off and will better support their own wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of the young people they are supporting.

When calculating the most appropriate ratio of adults to young people you should consider:

- The 24/7 nature of the event
- Travel time and method
- The environment and any planned activity risks
- The strong recommendation that every volunteer gets some time off
- The experience of the volunteers and how well they know the Venturers
- The experience of the Venturers
- The individual and group support needs of the Venturers

Advice and support on ratios and effective supervision is available from [safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk).

## **11.5 Responding to incidents, accidents and disclosures**

If you would like to discuss any safeguarding or child protection issues please contact [safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@woodcraft.org.uk).

## Section 12

# Site Safety

Group leaders are reminded that they are responsible for the safety and well-being of the young people in their group at all times. Please see Woodcraft Folk's latest residential [guidance on the Woodcraft Folk Website](#).

There are some aspects of the site which Group leaders should be aware of including:

### 12.1 Public Access

There are a number of rights of way through the site, including access to the bridge in the centre of the campsite, which are well used by walkers. Thought should be given to the positioning of tents, marquees and cars to create natural barriers to the camping circle. Anyone in the camping circle without a Venturer Camp wristband should be challenged and asked to return to the public footpath.

### 12.2 The River Wye

Many of our camping pitches back directly onto the river, while the riverbank is clearly marked, it is not fenced.

The river is fast moving and not suitable for swimming in. Canoes may launch from the launch on the eastern end of the site.

### 12.3 Vehicles on Site

Groups are asked to keep driving on site to the absolute minimum needed to arrive/leave site with their group. There is a speed limit of 10 miles per hour and drivers should be aware that the path through the site is very popular with local walkers as well as being used by other campers.

Vehicles must be parked in the designated car park and not adjacent to villages during the event, unless the vehicle is required for accessibility reasons.

PROOF



Venturer Camp 2023, a project by [Woodcraft Folk](https://www.woodcraftfolk.org.uk), 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](https://venturercamp.org.uk)) and our social media pages for more information.

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