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Meeting	General Council	Date	11th February 2023
Prepared by	Thomas Boxall & Venturer Camp Coordination Team	Presented by	Thomas Boxall

Previous papers or discussions related to: Include references to previous documents (with links) or meetings/discussions where this topic has arisen

None

Summary of critical points: A very short summary or bullet points eg More groups, less volunteers, new risk added

Planning is well underway.
The majority of critical volunteer roles have been recruited for however we are still in need of more volunteers.
Bookings have opened. Bookings close 26th May 2023.
We are planning a roadshow and pre-camp for later this year.

Recommendation: Clear request for General Council eg to approve the minutes of, to note, to sign-off X policy, to discuss and provide strategic input into Y

VENTURER CAMP 2023
Report to General Council
For February 2023 meeting

February 2023



This paper has been written to give an overview of where the Venturer Camp 2023 Project is currently. 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

2023-02-02

This document has been prepared using the Venturer Camp 2023 document template which comes, by default, with a title page, contents page and back cover page. This decision to typeset the paper in this way was made by Thomas as its easier to produce 'nice' looking documents in L^AT_EX than Google Docs :)

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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 the setup/ takedown days, we do have sole use of the site for the Venturer Camp dates.

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 much smaller roles which are less critical to fill. 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 creating communications material as we are yet to recruit for a communications rep.

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; 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](#).

It would be great if General Council can use their contacts or people in their district who want to get more involved with Woodcraft to promote the voluntary opportunities available.

2.3 Meetings

The core team have been meeting monthly for a check-in style meeting with a 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 budget. This was approved as part of the budget presented to General Council in December 2022.

The 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 minor 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.

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

Following the General Council discussion on financial inclusion it was decided to pilot reduced fees for volunteers at Venturer Camp for the following reasons

- Venturer Camp provides a programme for Venturers;
- Venturer Camp does not provide a family camp experience, unlike other Woodcraft Folk events;

- Many volunteers at Venturer Camp are young people who are not salaried and would significantly miss out financially by choosing to volunteer to attend.

An access fund will be in place to reduce any financial barriers experienced by Venturers. This is being supported by some of the proceeds from the Big Give Christmas Challenge.

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 received 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.

Section 5

Roadshow

Members of the Venturer Camp team will be attending a number of events around the country to deliver sessions about Venturer Camp.

Location	Date
Scotland	28th January
London (London Region Gathering)	5th March
Brighton (SE Regional Gathering)	18th March
Manchester (Venturer Camp Roadshow Event)	25th March
Online	TBD

Table 5.1: Roadshow dates

The content covered in the roadshow will range from an introduction to the camp aimed at Venturers & leaders; camplife & camp programme; getting involved; and a Q&A session. (Not all locations will have the same sessions offered due to time constraints).

Section 6

Pre-Camp

Pre-Camp will be hosted as a series of online events, culminating in an on-site weekend in early July which will not be open to all.

6.1 Virtual Events

The majority of the pre-camp events will take place as virtual events on Zoom throughout late April, May and June. These sessions will be hosted on Zoom and will take place on different nights of the week.

Slides and any other materials used in sessions will be made available on the Venturer Camp website ahead of the session. Some sessions may be recorded and the recordings published after the session.

In-detail planning is yet to begin for the sessions. Content will be published to our social media and website once we have dates for sessions.

6.2 On-site event

We have a pitch at Biblins booked from the 30th June to 2nd July. This will give the team a chance to meet the staff on site, visit the site and work out logistics on site.

We will be inviting one leader and up-to one Venturer from each booked delegation to meet the other people in their villages.



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) and our social media pages for more information.

Woodcraft Folk is a registered charity in England & Wales (1148195) and in Scotland (SC039791), and a limited company, registered in England & Wales (8133727). Registered office: Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS