

Common Ground Info Pack for UK delegations

Version 1 , October 2019

Intro

Common Ground is the next IFM-SEI international camp, organised by Woodcraft Folk in the UK - and you are invited! It will take place from 1st - 11th August 2020 at Kent County Showground in the South-East of England.

We will add to this Info Pack every few months, when information is confirmed. Enquiries are welcome to info@commonground.camp.

Payments

This is a summary of our payment policy. Please read the full document at www.commonground.camp.

- £205 per person – or £125 if attending for 5 days (1st – 5th or 6th – 11th August)
- Participants aged 0 - 4 do not pay a camp fee.
- Included: 10 days of camping, food and day/evening programme.
- Travel costs are not included.
- £5 discount per person if booked and 50% deposit paid by 1st December.
- Remaining balance due by 1st May 2020
- Full-time carers for young people with specific additional needs may be able to attend for free – email info@commonground.camp so that we can offer support.
- Book online at: <https://www.commonground.camp/book/> and follow the payment instructions on your confirmation email. **You must use your unique reference number with each payment.**
- We encourage any group with limited funds to get in touch with the Common Ground team, for fundraising ideas, information on Gift Aid and different payment plans.



How to get there

By car or coach:

The Kent Event Centre is located just off the A249 dual carriageway.

From the M20 Motorway, exit the motorway at junction (7) and follow signs to Sittingbourne, Sheerness A249. Follow the A249 for approximately 2 miles, the Kent Event Centre & Kent Showground are clearly signposted on the left-hand side after the brow of the hill.

From the M2 Motorway, exit the motorway at junction (5) signposted (M20) Maidstone A249. Follow the A249 for approximately 5 miles. Please be aware that cars are unable to cross over the carriage way to the Showground on the right-hand side of the road. Visitors will need to carry on along the A249 to the roundabout at the bottom of Detling hill, then follow the M20 directions above.

Please note: The Kent Event Centre is not accessible via Scragged Oak Road. Using this route will direct you to a locked gate.

By rail:

Maidstone East Railway Station is 4.2 miles from the Kent Event Centre. Trains to London Victoria depart twice an hour. Shuttle buses from Maidstone East to the venue are being planned for the 1st August and 11th August.

The camping experience

Common Ground will be a unique camping experience because you will be living with, educating alongside and making friends with Woodcraft Folk and IFM-SEI members of all ages from across the world. Kent Events Centre can offer participants a comfortable site and a good infrastructure, whatever the weather. It is also close to the airports and ports for our international delegations. We have some lessons learnt from a previous camp to improve the experience for all.

The venue has some additional benefits. It has several acres of woodland which our camp participants are welcome to use for hiking and recreation. You can view more site information here: www.kenteventcentre.co.uk but please direct any enquiries to info@commonground.camp so that we can give you information that is specific to Common Ground 2020.

The site has enough showers and toilets for our group, but your toilet block may be a little further away. If you have very young group members, have a think about bringing an Elsan and creating a toilet tent. If our participant number grows, we will add mobile toilet blocks for the villages furthest from the central area.

A provisional layout has been set but will depend on group size. More details to follow in the spring.

Equipment

Please don't feel like you cannot attend if your group has little or no equipment. There are many options to resolve this. Some districts have more than what they need, and the Common Ground team will offer to match groups appropriately. Or perhaps your group members have connections in a different district or region. Why not get in touch and do a quick exercise on what you would need and how much funding you will need to raise. If you do some fundraising now and buy your own equipment, it will leave a lasting legacy your group will enjoy for many years to come.

Accessibility

We want the camp to be open and welcome to everyone. You may have a member in your group who has a physical disability, sensory sensitivity or learning differences. Speak to Project Manager Pauliina Keinanen, info@commonground.camp at the earliest opportunity about any additional needs. Will you bring a young person who uses a wheelchair? Do you have autistic members who need less sensory stimulation at times? Will someone need a fridge for their medication? There is a range of support measures we can develop to keep those participants safe, included and comfortable. We also want to encourage participation from young people who are transitioning. Gender-neutral toilets and other adjustments are available, please contact us to discuss.

The food

Three meals a day is included in the camp fee but it will be cooked by all the campers, in small teams on a rota basis. This is a part of the whole experience, that everyone is a volunteer and a participant. You can expect to receive a camp menu, with a recipe and clear instructions for each day. There will be plenty of confident cooks around to help if your team gets stuck. Dry ingredients can be collected from the Town pantry and fresh items like bread and milk will be delivered to site every couple of days.

The menu has been designed to offer everyone a filling, warm meal including young children and campers who need a vegan, halal, gluten-free or dairy-free option. Please put the group dietary needs and allergies on the booking form by May 2020 so that we can cater for these.

The environmental impact is important to us as a camp - to minimise food waste, plastic waste and the carbon footprint. Please keep a totally open mind - you may end up eating much less meat than you would have at home. Or the dishes may include more beans and pulses than you have in an average week. The camp is a great opportunity to learn about and explore sustainable diets.

Some cafes will be set up around the site, so that you can buy a hot drink or a special treat like cake. Why not take on a role helping to run one of these lovely cafes? There will be more information soon about alcohol rules on site, card payments and the Camp Bar for over 18's.

The camp programme

The central programme is delivered through Centres. Every Centre will run sessions on different topics on children's rights, sustainability and activism. The programme has something for every age group, including the under 10's. Centres will operate every other day. On the other days, the towns and villages will come together for sports, games and self-organised activities. Look out for more detailed information on each Centre from November 2019.

How to get more involved

"Many hands make light work". This camp is investing in volunteer wellbeing, so we are recruiting lots and lots of volunteers to share the tasks. This will allow everyone a good pace of duties, rest and play. Come and join our great team! Try a new role you have not done before, or offer your skills and experience in anything from healthcare to stewarding, from engineering to counselling.

Contact details

General enquiries and Project Manager (Pauliina Keinanen): info@commonground.camp

Chair of the Board (Tom Brooks): chair@commonground.camp

Communications (Ellen Gibson): comms@commonground.camp

Food (Emma Shuttleworth and Hannah Khan): kp@commonground.camp

International (Frankie Marsh): international@commonground.camp

See our website for a full list of contacts.