



Common Ground 2022 Info Pack for UK delegations

Version 2, February 2022

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 Fri 29th July – Mon 8th August 2022 at Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens, in the Midlands of England. This is version 2 of the Info-Pack, we will add fuller details as they become available every few months. Enquiries are welcome to info@commonground.camp. You can also see our FAQ section [here](#).

The camping experience

Common Ground will be a unique camping experience because you will be living with, learning with and making friends with Woodcraft Folk and IFM-SEI members of all ages from across the world. The site address is “Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens” but our event site is on the adjacent fields, not on Hall grounds. Kelmarsh is in a pretty part of rural Northamptonshire, a largely flat site with lots of space, including woodland and hiking paths. See How to get there at the end of the pack, for detailed directions.

We are bringing all infrastructure to Kelmarsh, so that we can be comfortable and yet feel we are connecting with the great outdoors. Please note that there is no wifi provided on site. We know that good communication is key to a good camp so we will have a range of communication methods, also for campers who do not have a smartphone or who prefer a digital detox.

Common Ground and Covid

As a Common Ground board, we expect that coronavirus will still be in circulation in August 2022 and we are planning both 1) measures to prevent infection and 2) protocols for handling breakouts. Our priority is the safety of our campers and volunteers. Moreover we must try not to add to the incredible pressure our comrades in healthcare are working under. We understand that individuals take different approaches to pandemic easing, and we respect that. We do however encourage everyone to become fully vaccinated where possible. Some participants may be facing extra barriers due to their vaccination status or the type of vaccine they have received. We pledge to work with IFM-SEI so find practical solutions to these barriers.

We will follow UK law and National Youth Agency Guidance – this might include:

- Regular Lateral Flow Testing
- Vaccine Passports
- Masks in crowded indoor spaces.
- Quarantine for those who are infectious

We will take measures to prevent the spread of covid and other diseases on camp – this will include:

- Plan most activities to take place outside
- Ensure marquees and tents are well ventilated
- Ensure marquees do not become over-crowded, including during evening programme
- Wash hands in soapy water before meal times and after toilet use.
- Offer hand sanitiser in specific places.

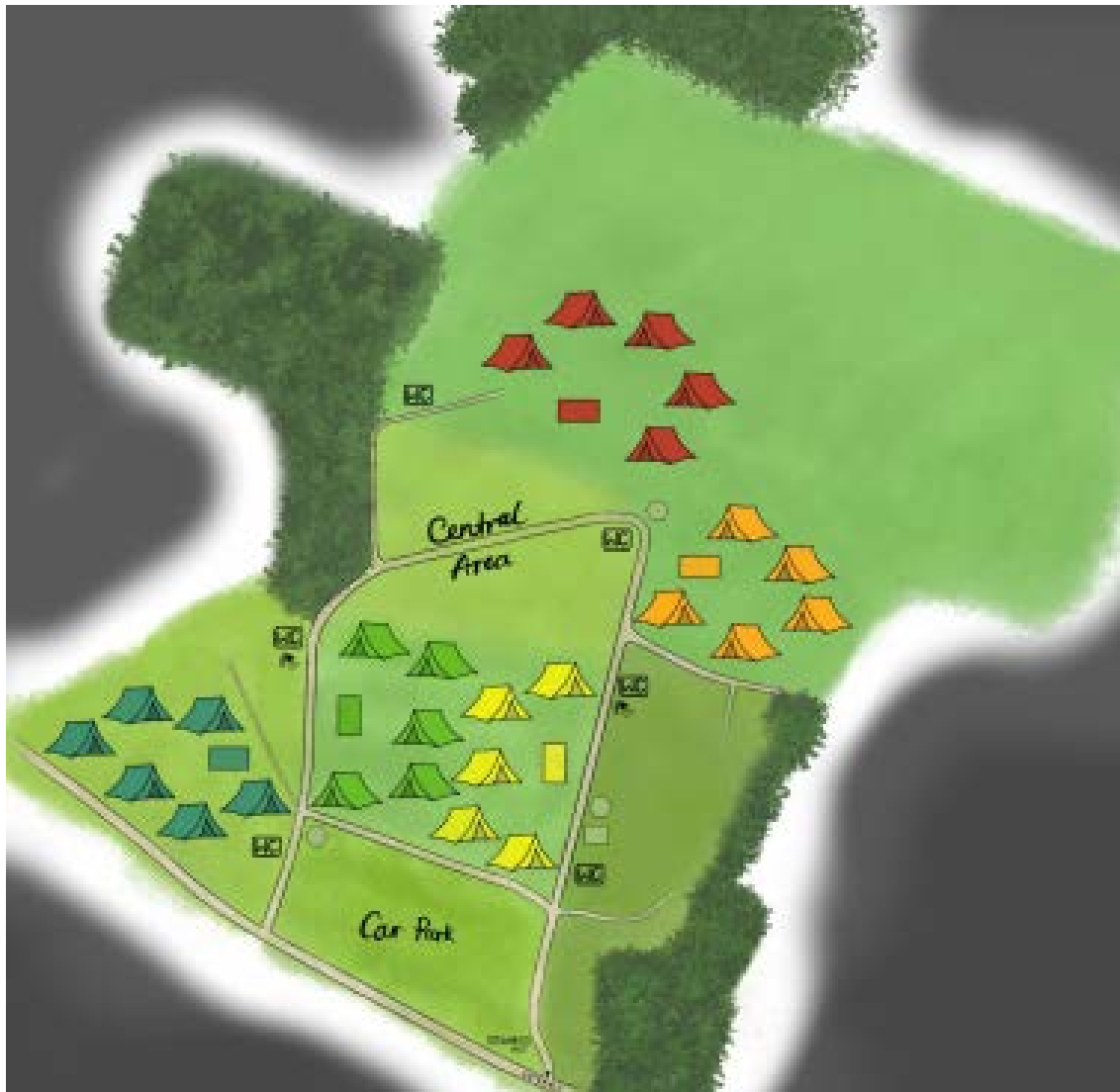
Pre-camp

In May, we will be running pre-camp online and face-to-face, to help the participants feel more prepared for Common Ground. Online sessions will run in mid-May, and the face-to-face pre-camp **27 - 29 May, at Kelmarsh**. See [our bespoke webpage](#) for booking details and itinerary, out by 1 April. Session at Kelmarsh will run from Friday evening to Sunday midday, to allow for return travel on Sunday afternoon.

This is a great chance for our UK and international participants to meet, share an understanding of how we camp together and have a closer look at what the camp layout and infrastructure will be.

Camp layout

The plan is to have villages (80-100 people each), with a kitchen, a large tent to eat under and sleeping tents. There will be 5 to 6 villages to form a town (400 - 550 people). Each town will have a very large tent for communal activity, a town cafe, a town pantry to supply meal ingredients and of course toilets and showers. In the Central Area you will find activities, workshops and entertainment.



Ratio between adults and children

When planning your village arrangements, please ensure you have enough adults. It will make the camp experience safer and more manageable. The required ratio between adult volunteers and children:

- 1 adult volunteer to every 3 children aged 0 - 5
- 1 adult volunteer to every 5 children aged 6 - 9
- 1 adult volunteer to every 8 children aged 10 - 12 and
- 1 adult volunteer to every 10 children aged 13 - 15.

Please re-engage young adults aged 20+ who were a part of your group. It will help your group, and enable them to move from participant to leader.

VOLUNTEER WELL-BEING TENT

CATCH UP

- Hosting any volunteer meetings – grab a pot of tea or a cafetière of coffee
- a larger group can book out the sofa area

This is only the beginning, if you have any other ideas don't hold them back

NETWORK

- Meet new volunteers
- Communicate with friends who have different shifts to you
- Lonely hearts advertisements for not burning out
- Bonding activities, such as ice breakers

RECHARGE

- Grab a coffee
- Grab a snack/leftovers
- Visit the appreciation board to anonymously shout out someone or read how you have been appreciated
- Refer to the mental health info section – giving some tips on good mental health and how to achieve it on camp

UNWIND

- Relax on sofas
- Listen to calming music
- Speed vent to other volunteers

A creative environment where people can change the plan and adapt whenever and wherever it is needed

Equipment

If you do some fundraising now and buy or upgrade your own equipment, it will leave a lasting legacy for your group for many years. Many funders are positive about big projects like Common Ground, and a grant can make the camp affordable for even more young members. We also need to offer extra equipment for those groups who need to fly to the UK and cannot bring equipment.

The food

Three meals a day are included in the camp fee and you can buy cakes and treats in the camp cafes. The cooking is done by all campers in their turn, using clear recipes and the help of more experienced cooks (called KPs) Please put the group **dietary needs and allergies on the booking form by 2nd May 2022**. We all need to keep an open mind about food on camp but we understand this can be a huge challenge for some. Please read about selective eaters and modular meals on camp [here](#).

Since 2018, the central KP team have been working on the camp menu with a stakeholder group, which includes experienced KPs, international participants, very young members and people with expertise in sustainability. There was also a survey questionnaire which allowed participants to input more widely about meal preferences and favourite camp meals. This is what we've come up with, we hope you like it!



The poster features the Common Ground logo at the top left, which includes the years 2011 and 2022. The title 'Common Ground 2022 Menu' is centered at the top. Below the title, a note states: 'Please note the order of meals could change. Additionally some foods are not listed but will be available, such as cereal and fruit.' The menu is organized into three columns: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, each with a sun icon above the header. The rows represent days 1 through 11. The background of the poster shows silhouettes of people sitting at a table with chairs, set against a blue sky with a sun.

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
1	-	-	Sausage, mash, beans & peas Cake & custard
2	Pancakes	Sandwiches (tuna, cheese, salad)	Mac & cheese Rocky road
3	Eggy bread	Wraps (hummus, salad, cold 'meats')	Curry, dhal & rice Fruit salad
4	Porridge	Bagels (cold meats, cream cheese, salad)	Noodles & tofu stir fry Rice crispy cakes
5	Breakfast burrito	Soup	Burgers with salad Pears and chocolate
6	Sausage & beans	Sandwiches (egg, cheese, hummus)	Tomato pasta Soya desserts with tinned peaches
7	Porridge	Vegetable soup	Chilli & rice Banoffee pie
8	Hash browns & mushrooms	Wraps (falafel, salads)	Bolognese Kaiserschmarrn
9	Bircher muesli	Hot dogs, sauerkraut and salad	Paella Caramelised banana
10	Bacon sandwiches	Pitta bread (cheese, hummus, salads)	Chickpea tagine Cheesecake
11	Cereal & leftovers	Packed lunch to go (sandwiches & leftovers)	-

Accessibility

We want the camp to be open and welcoming to everyone. You may have a member in your group who has a physical disability, sensory sensitivity or learning differences. Do speak to the Common Ground team via info@commonground.camp at the earliest opportunity about any additional needs. There is a range of support measures we can develop to keep these 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.

Camp Day by Day

The graphic features a dark blue background with a forest scene and a night sky. At the top left is the Common Ground logo, a circular emblem with a tree and the text 'COMMON GROUND' and '2022'. The title 'Common Ground 2022 Itinerary' is centered at the top. Below the title are three columns labeled 'Morning', 'Afternoon', and 'Evening', each with a sun icon. The itinerary is presented as a grid of red boxes with white text, listing activities for each day from Friday 29th to Monday 8th.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Fri 29th	Arrivals	Arrivals	Opening Ceremony
Sat 30th	Arrival sessions in villages	Central drop-in	Chill
Sun 31st	Central	Central	Evening Programme
Mon 1st	Village	Village	Chill
Tue 2nd	Central	Central	Evening Programme
Wed 3rd	Village	Village	Chill
Thu 4th	Central	Central	Evening Programme
Fri 5th	Village	Village	Chill
Sat 6th	Central - Open Day	Central - Open Day	Evening Programme
Sun 7th	Central	Village	Closing Ceremony
Mon 8th	Departures	Departures	

The camp programme

The central programme is delivered through Centres. Every Centre will run sessions on different topics such as 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.

As we want to encourage a good balance between educational activities, partying and rest for all participants, central programme is organised every other evening. Most nights, amplified music will be finished by 11.30pm. After this time, there can be low-key gatherings and acoustic music if noise levels do not disrupt others' sleep.

Programme Centres

Under 10's: Learn the same topics as the older children do at programme centres... with just a bit more fun!

Environment & Migration: learn and reflect on issues of environment and migration and the role of borders during this time of climate breakdown

Media: exploring media through games and workshops, making videos, radio programmes and creating walls of art stories and news about camp and the world. Everyone at camp will watch 'the news' participants create in their towns after dinner each evening

Conflict & Peace: exploring the concepts of conflict and peace and looking at how they can have different meanings depending on individuals and communities' political, social, economic and geographical realities

Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism: anti-racist and anti-fascist education, activities and events. Learn about the history of anti-racism and anti-fascism across the world

Feminism: activities for all ages and languages about patriarchy, discrimination, identity, and great women throughout history

Cooperation: explore what it means to participate democratically in co-operative organisations, to act in solidarity with each other and other co-ops, to live and work cooperatively and to co-operate internationally

Hands On: workshops include metalwork, bushcraft, science, making and wild cooking, a chance to connect with the world around you and learn how to work with the natural environment

Arts: jam sessions, poetry events, theatre of the oppressed, collage making

Heritage: IFM-SEI Centenary group will share info about the history of IFM, and the Woodcraft Folk "Heading to 100" group will deliver activities on Woodcraft's heritage

Rainbow: bringing the spirit of Queer Easter, a socialist youth seminar which explores queer topics. Here we will speak about socialist change, create a cool space where people can hang out, learn about each other, and develop their rainbow socialism

International Sharing: a place to for young people participating in international projects to share experiences and training



International projects at CG

Erasmus +: 28 international volunteers will come to the UK for 18 days, to help with Common Ground programme, working week and take-down.

Erasmus +: The Common Ground board and staff will be supported by a full-time international volunteer

Erasmus +: Woodcraft Folk's international volunteer, supports Common Ground comms activity in 2022.

Journey of Youth Leadership: A two-year project, aiming to strengthen youth leadership and improve transparency and internal democracy in IFM-SEI organisations involving 41 persons from IFM-SEI organisations all over the world

Kids Got Rights: A two-year project aimed at empowering children 8- 13 year olds through self-organisation and claiming their own rights in IFM-SEI organisations

E-mpACT:youth for inclusive e-ducation: A three-year project, to address the youth needs during and post Covid-19 pandemic, addressing digitalisation, non formal education, and International solidarity in IFM-SEI organisations.

PeaceCommunicators: A one year project aims to support young people in building sustainable, just and supportive societies by providing them with space to develop skills, attitudes, values and knowledge needed for nonviolent conflict resolution and pursuit of peace by European Youth Foundation of CoE.



LANGUAGES ON CAMP

- At Common Ground everybody is important no matter what language they speak.
- Around **2,000** people from **20** different countries will attend CG but... NOT all people have the same level of English.

How we do it



Non-verbal
games

Multilingual
songs

Volunteer
interpreters



Learn phrases
in other
languages

A 5 second
rule for native
speakers

Signs and
symbols

International teams
in all programme centres



Stay tuned for more!

Contact sandra@woodcraft.org.uk with your ideas

Payments

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

- £215 per person – or £130 if attending for 5 days (29th July – 3rd August or 3rd - 8th 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 2021.
- Remaining balance due by 2nd May 2022.
- 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

FROM THE A14 (FOR THE M1 AND M6): Take the exit at Junction 2, and head north towards Market Harborough. Kelmarsh is 500m north from the A14, taking the left turn from the crossroads. Follow bespoke signage for Common Ground, as the event site has a separate entrance to the hall and gardens.

FROM THE A508: The entrance is located on the main A508 road, 5 miles south of Market Harborough and 11 miles north of Northampton.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT: The nearest train stations to Kelmarsh are Northampton (trains to London Euston and Birmingham New Street) and Market Harborough (to London St Pancras and Nottingham).

There is a regular bus service (Stagecoach X7) which runs from Leicester to Milton Keynes, via Market Harborough and Northampton, which stops outside the entrance. Timetable [here](#).

Shuttle buses are being planned for the arrival and departure days, to/from Market Harborough station. We are also making arrangements to offer coaches from Birmingham International airport, for arrivals from outside the UK.

How to get more involved

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 counseling. Have a look at current roles [here](#).

Resources

If you have a specific question and the answer isn't in here, the likelihood is it's in our [FAQs](#).

Some more resources:

- [Activity Pack](#) for group nights. A new one of these to follow soon!
- [Camping together](#), a page with a 2 minute video you may wish to show to build excitement

- [Your journey to camp](#) - key steps video and a fuller checklist
- [Covid statement](#) from November - we're continuing to plan specific measures we will have in place dependent on numbers at the time of camp

See the [Information and Promotion](#) page on our website for more resources to share with parents, potential funders etc. And why not get hold of your Common Ground merchandise [here!](#)

Contact details

Common Ground staff team, Pauliina and Millie: info@commonground.camp

Tel: +44 (0)20 4519 5431 and +44 (0)20 4519 5203

See our [website](#) for a full list of contacts.