



Common Ground 2022 Info Pack for international delegations

Version 2, March 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](#). Visa support is available. Please read our separate guidance [here](#) and ensure the Common Ground team has all participant details **by the end of April**, so that we can issue the visa support letters.

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 to find practical solutions to these barriers.

We will follow UK law and National Youth Agency Guidance, but may decide to have further measures if our participants will feel safer that way. Measures this might include:

- Regular Lateral Flow Testing
- 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. Sessions 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.

Equipment

Woodcraft Folk will try to arrange camping equipment for as many international groups as possible. Our priority will be to help groups arriving by air from outside Western Europe. If your group can choose to travel overland from Europe, and can bring some equipment, this will enable more campers to have the right equipment to camp comfortably and safely.

The small sleeping tents available from Woodcraft Folk are often very basic (see picture below). You may want to speak to your young people about this, to manage their expectations.



Ratio between adults and children

When planning your group size and village arrangements, please ensure you have enough adults. It will make the experience safer and more manageable. The required adult: child ratio is as follows:

- 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.

We recommend that each group has at least 2 adults, in case one adult is attending to an emergency. Think of training young adults who can move from participant to youth leader.

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 layout

The plan is to have villages (80-100 people each), with a kitchen, a large tent to eat under and sleeping tents. 5 to 6 villages will 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.



Airport options

Please do not automatically book the cheapest flights to a London airport. Transfers to/from Heathrow and Gatwick could add to the cost and travel times by far more than the saving you make on flight prices. The most convenient airport options for Kelmarsh are Birmingham, East Midlands, Stansted or Luton. Shuttle buses are being planned for the arrival and departure days, to/from Kettering station. We are also making arrangements to offer coaches from Birmingham International airport. Try to choose arrival flights in the morning and departures after 1pm. See more information [here](#).

Arriving by road and public transport

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 camp has a different 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), Market Harborough (trains to London St Pancras and Nottingham) and Kettering (trains 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 Kettering station. We now recommend arriving via Kettering, following advice from the railway company. If you already booked tickets to/from Market Harborough, get in touch and we can discuss how to resolve this. We are also making arrangements to offer coaches from Birmingham International airport.

Travelling with under 18's

Anyone aged under 18 is classed as a child by UK law. Under-18s may need extra evidence if travelling without a parent or a guardian. This is needed even if the group is travelling visa-free. You should prepare evidence for each child, in case your group is checked at the border. This could include:

- Consent from the parent(s) or guardian(s) to travel to the UK and details of the adult(s) accompanying the child. The letter also needs to detail the care and accommodation arranged in the UK (= the details of Common Ground).
- A photocopy of the Birth Certificate or legal document (such as adoption papers) showing the relationship between the child and the parent or guardian.
- A copy of the parent's or guardian's passport photo page, with their signature. Or if the parent(s) do not have a passport, use another official document which has their signature.

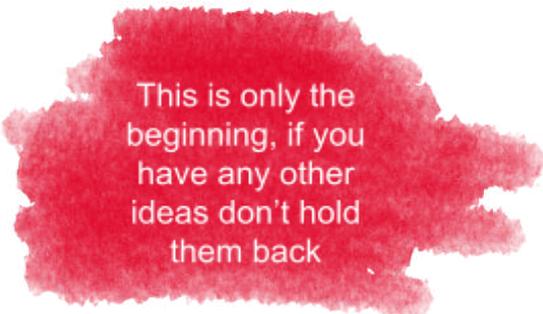
See full UK government guidance regarding under-18's [here](#).

CHECK CAREFULLY: are all the children in your group EU citizens? Or is someone coming with a refugee travel document or a non-EU passport? If yes, see our Visa guidance documents EN/FRA/ES [here](#).

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

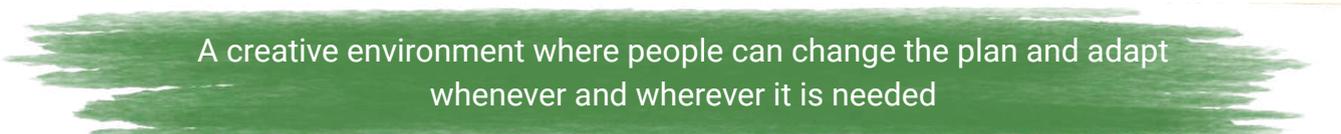
- Meet new volunteers
- Communicate with friends who have different shifts to you
- Lonely hearts advertisements for not burning out
- Bonding activities, such as ice breakers

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 mental health info section – 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



The graphic is a calendar-style itinerary for the Common Ground 2022 event. It features a dark blue background with a forest scene and a starry sky. At the top left is the 'INTERNATIONAL CAMP COMMON GROUND 2022' logo. The title 'Common Ground 2022 Itinerary' is centered at the top. Below the title are three columns representing 'Morning', 'Afternoon', and 'Evening', each with a sun icon. The itinerary is organized by date from Friday, 29th to Monday, 8th. Each date has three corresponding activity boxes for the Morning, Afternoon, and Evening periods.

	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 volunteers will come to the UK for 18 days, to help with building, take-down and programme of camp, each bringing a European dimension to how we work
- **Erasmus+:** The Common Ground team is supported by a full-time volunteer from Greece
- **Erasmus+:** A volunteer from France 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
- **Kids Got Rights:** A project aimed at empowering children aged 8-13
- **E-mpACT:youth for inclusive e-ducation:** A project to address the youth needs during and post Covid-19 pandemic, addressing digitalisation, non formal education, and International solidarity
- **PeaceCommunicators:** A project 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 by European Youth Foundation

The food

Three meals a day are included in the camp fee and you can buy treats in the camp cafes. All campers take turns to cook, using clear recipes and the help of more experienced cooks (called KPs). Please put the **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. Read about selective eaters and modular meals on camp [here](#).

Since 2018, the central KP team has been working on the camp menu with a group of experienced KPs, international participants, very young members and the sustainability team. There was also a survey about meal preferences and favourite camp meals. This is what we've come up with, we hope you like it!

Common Ground 2022 Menu

Please note the order of meals could change. Additionally some foods are not listed but will be available, such as cereal and fruit.

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)	-

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

Day Trip Options (in order of distance from camp)

Market Harborough

[Market Harborough](#) is a typical English small town, full of little shops, independent cafes and pretty buildings. You can reach it by [bus X7](#) in just 10 minutes, and spend a few hours exploring the quaint streets and the canal. There is also [Welland Park](#) with a very nice playground. Hunting for bargains in charity shops in the UK is a great activity for people of all ages. It's a way to save money and find second-hand gifts and souvenirs, which are good for the planet too. Shops will carry names such as Oxfam, British Heart Foundation, Scope and many more. All goods will be marked with fixed prices (no haggling). All the profits go to a named charity. Please try to avoid entering shops as a large group, especially during pandemic times. Keep to small groups at a time, with enough adults to supervise.



Leicester

Leicester is a lively city (population 400,000) famous for British Asian culture and food, nice independent shops, football and rugby. [The National Space Centre](#) makes a good attraction for all ages, and there are some free museums. We recommend [New Walk and Newark Houses](#). The city centre is easily walkable, so you could even do just a half-day trip by bus from Kelmarsh. Contact the Common Ground team for restaurant recommendations.

Birmingham

Birmingham is the second biggest city in the UK. It has an interesting mix of modern and traditional architecture. There is also some interesting industrial / working class history around. You can reach Birmingham by a combination of bus and train, or you could hire a minibus or a coach to make the journey quicker. [Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery](#) is re-opening in spring 2022 after a refurbishment. This is usually free of charge to visit. [ThinkTank](#) is an award-winning science museum but there is an admission charge and needs to be booked in advance. If your group members are very young and non-English speaking, you may want to think carefully, how they will be able to engage with the exhibition. Whereas the Birmingham Museum has a special area for very young children for free play. There are also smaller specialist museums, such as [Jewellery Quarter Museum](#) and [Back to Backs](#). And

for those into underwater creatures, the [Sea Life Centre](#) is more ethical than the typical aquarium. On a hot day, you could just decide to splash in the free water fountains on Centenary Square!

London

You all know London! You could take a local bus to Market Harborough and then a train of about one hour to St Pancras. Please book all train tickets in advance to make a big saving. St Pancras is next to King's Cross and [platform 9 ¾](#) for any Harry Potter lovers wanting a photo opportunity. Walk along the Thames and enjoy the famous sights, explore the interactive exhibits of the Science Museum (it's free but you need to book online in advance) or see a play or musical in the West End. There are discounts for children the whole of August for 'kid's week.' Some activities in London can be expensive but if you plan carefully, there are also many things you could do [free of charge](#).

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:

- Visa guidance EN/ES/FR [here](#).
- [Activity Pack](#) for group nights. A new one of these to follow soon!
- [Camping together](#), a page with a 2 minute video EN/ES/FR to show your members
- [Covid statement](#) from November 2021 - 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

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