

UNICORN



CAMP RULES

- No alcohol or illegal drugs,
- No CD players, radios, noisy electronic games etc.
- Mobile phones must be switched off. Outgoing calls must be made away from the camping area.
- All gas appliances used on site must meet regulation standards.
- No noise after 11p.m.
- Dogs are not permitted.

INFORMATION PACK

It is important that you read this before you sign your ticket

Suggested Things to Bring

- a suitable tent, dome, tipi, bender or yurt
- air bed - warm bedding, -hot water bottles
- torch - lantern
- rugs and sheepskins
- ear-plugs
- a lighter
- a saw, an axe
- dry newspaper
- wellies and waterproofs
- a strong reusable shopping bag
- large pots and pans
- a trivet or grill
- plates, bowls, cups, cutlery
- a chopping board and knife
- a washing up bowl
- a stool or chair to sit on
- toilet rolls
- a small first-aid kit
- sun-screen

If you need an epi-pen remember to bring it to camp.

If travelling light, join a well-equipped circle!

About Us

Unicorn Voice Camps and Peace through the Arts Camps are organised by a core group of four people, Bob, James, Jenny and Nickomo. On a day to day level the camp is run by teams led by co-ordinators working in and supervising the Creativity Area, Site Crew, Gate Team, Well-Being, Teenage Activities and Café.

Unicorn Camps have been running since 1988. Over this time an ethos and policy has developed through shared experience, discussion and observation. Our hope is that everyone will feel accepted as an individual, and as a part of the community. A central aspect of Unicorn Camps is that of living together in community and it is this that can often bring the greatest challenges and the deepest rewards.



Arriving and Staying

When you arrive at camp you will be met by the Gate Team. Members of the team are available for information and, if needed, to introduce you to a circle and find help to put up your tent.

The Unicorn organisation aims to provide strong and safe boundaries to enable participants to experience a sense of safety, inclusion and belonging. Once the camp has been established it is very unsettling if people arrive late or visitors come on to the site. Participants should not arrive before Arrivals Day (Saturday), we impose a £20 per adult per night surcharge for early arrivals. No adult arrivals after the first full day of the camp (Sunday). To maintain the security, safety and integrity of the community, we maintain a **no visitors** policy. These rules need not apply to children who are being brought to camp after it has started. The parents are asked to meet their children at the Gate or outside of the camp.



Camping Circles

Circles are formed organically as people arrive and select a space in which to set up their tent. A fire is made in the middle of the circle directly onto the ground (the farmer has asked us not to dig holes). Circle members share collecting and chopping wood, keeping a supply of water at hand, keeping the fire lit for meal times and keeping the circle tidy. The evening meal and subsequent washing-up is something that is usually shared with the whole circle, a talk with your circle will establish how you wish to operate. Time for circle sharing is included in the programme near the beginning of the camp.

Your circle is the first place to look to for company, friendship, practical help and emotional support. Some thoughts: Do you want to camp with families with children, if so what ages? Do you want to be near certain facilities e.g. the Creativity Area, the climbing frame, or the main marquee? Do you want to camp with others with plenty of experience of camps willing to share their knowledge and cooking equipment? As most circles cook communally, size is another factor; would you rather cook more often for less people or vice-versa?

Joining a circle can be stressful - when you have set up please be sensitive and welcoming to new arrivals. We have found that the holding of spaces for latecomers can cause distress, especially to first-time campers. Please be willing to accept new friends into your circle. We encourage first-time campers to arrive as early as you can, as it can be difficult trying to join circles who consider themselves to be complete!



Vehicles on Site

We have found that the absence of vehicles from the camping area considerably enhances the natural organic experience of the camp. After Arrivals Day, for the duration of the camp, no vehicles are permitted on the camping fields except for official site vehicles. The only vehicles permitted to stay in the camping area are those camper vans or caravans belonging to people with a condition that makes it difficult for them to sleep in a tent. Permission for this must be requested from Jenny prior to the camp jennylynthomas@gmail.com Please note that unauthorised camping vehicles will incur a £50 surcharge.

The Quieter Area

You may wish to camp in the Quieter Area which is intended to be a restful place for those who want or need to be away from the busyness of camp-life. Though the 'Quiet Time' (from 11p.m - 8a.m.) is observed by the whole camp, it is understood that those in the Quieter Area are unlikely to welcome music-making in their circles at any time, so it is not a good place for keen singers and musicians! Also campers with children would probably feel more comfortable camping elsewhere. Please note that this area is part of a camping field and is only relatively quiet, which is why it is now called the 'Quieter Area', as we felt the old name (The 'Quiet Area') encouraged unrealistic expectations!

Camp Facilities

The field we camp in is at the end of a track in a quiet and secluded spot. The farmers who own the land make us feel very welcome and look forward to having us to stay each year. In turn we respect the land and minimise our impact upon it in every way that we can. The camp facilities include: willow toilets, including a toilet with disabled access, standpipes with drinkable cold running filtered water and hot wood-fired showers.



The showers are communal with certain times allocated to men/women/teens only. We have marquees and large yurts for gatherings, dances and workshops. There is a café providing drinks, cakes and lunches. There is a Creativity Area with space for workshops and play-structures. We have a plentiful supply of firewood during the camp. Fire extinguishers are kept at the main marquees. A market is held during the week in the main marquee where you may buy and sell goods with fellow campers.



Food

The organic farm shop is a five-minute walk up the lane. It is supplied daily with a wide range of freshly picked organic vegetables from the farm. It also sells locally baked organic bread, organic milk and many other groceries. There is a grocery shop in the village and an on-site store for staples such as rice and tinned tomatoes. We ask everyone to follow a vegetarian diet on the camps for reasons of hygiene.

Hygiene

Mindfulness of hygiene is especially important when camping together. The weather is often hot, the facilities are more basic than those we are used to at home, and with our proximity to each other there is an increased risk of bugs being spread.

- Wash your hands!
- Keep your food covered!
- Clean your eating utensils with hot soapy water after use!

Well-Being

Although we have a team of first-aid specialists on site, all participants are responsible for their own health and well-being and that of their children. If required there is a doctor's clinic in the village.

Children and Teenagers

A full programme of activities is provided for all children above the age of five, specialised for different age ranges. Our hope is that the whole camp will be mindful of the welfare of our children, ready to intervene if problems arise. Ultimately of course, as parents we are responsible for their welfare and behaviour, ensuring that our children and teenagers are aware of the rules of the camp and that they are observed. We are happy for 15+ year-olds to camp in circles together as long as they observe the same rules as the adults, particularly with regard to alcohol, drugs and noise. Younger teens may camp together if their circle is immediately adjacent to supervising adults. If any do transgress, they will not be allowed to continue camping in a different circle to their parents. Parents are asked to ensure that their children are in their camping circle by 10p.m.

Karma Yoga

All adult and teenage participants are asked to contribute to the everyday running of the camp. 'Karma Yoga' means offering work as a service for the benefit of the community. When you check in at the Gate on arrival you will be given a Karma Yoga ticket. The work is likely to require one to three hours of your time during the week. Some of the Karma Yoga duties include lantern lighting, helping in children's workshops, serving in the café and toilet cleaning (rubber gloves provided!).