

## Marquee Camps

### What we are looking for:

Ideally, we are looking for a minimum of 3 acres of well-draining grassland for 4 weeks of summer camping holidays.

### Field

- Grassland such as, pasture, meadow, parkland or sports / recreational area
- Minimum of 3 acres, but preferably up to 5 acres
- Flat area approximately 40m x 20m for the main marquee and kitchen tent. The remainder reasonably flat for camping, caravans and campervans
- Grass not too long and no fresh animal manure.
- No obvious hazards for young children, e.g. unfenced ponds / slurry pits; unfenced/unhedged boundary with public road; old farm machinery; electricity pylons
- No crop-spraying in adjacent fields immediately before or during duration of camp.
- Immediate site access should not be off a busy road
- Good firm entrance to site. Minimum width 3.5m.
- Entrance not likely to become boggy.
- Field must be accessible for suppliers' vehicles: marquee, toilets, skip, waste recycling and food deliveries
- Preferably level hard standing for Portakabin toilet block (9m x 6m) at the entrance to the field, otherwise tow on toilet units if not available.

### Water

- Provision of reliable drinking water supply with good pressure laid to field edge. We will consider non-mains water providing we can be given satisfactory assurances about quality and continuity of supply and pressure.

### Camp dates

The summer camp normally runs for 4 weeks beginning in late July. We are interested in possible sites for the next two to three years. Camps normally begin on a Saturday.

We often extend an invitation to local residents to join us for the dance on Wednesday evenings.

### DESIRABLE (not essential)

- More than 3 acres.
- Field boundaries of hedges and/or trees rather than mere fences.
- Off the beaten track, away from the public gaze/No close neighbours.
- No electricity supply or phone cables running over field.
- No public footpaths across or alongside field.
- Pub within reasonable walking distance (1 mile).
- Somewhere reasonably close to house two electric freezers.



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## What we do

### The Camp

We will run four consecutive week-long camps (4 x 7 days) on the field. We need four full days beforehand and one full day afterwards to complete the setup and strike. This is supervised by our Equipment Manager. We will organise with the suppliers to collect the gas cylinders, skip, recycling bins and toilets as soon as possible after the camp ends. We will leave the field in good order and completely litter-free.

### The Marquee

The marquee is the focus of our camp. We normally hire a 2-pole traditional marquee (60' x 40') with an attached kitchen tent (20' x 20') and equipment store (20' x 20'). All have a wooden floor. We cook and eat communally. We use the marquee for three meals each day - breakfast, lunch and dinner. The marquee is also used for workshops and the evening entertainment. As a general rule, all the instruments on camp are acoustic. We do have a PA system within the marquee, normally with 3 microphones (one for the caller and two for the band). We do not make any excessive noise.

### Camp Life and Activities

Every morning there is a large 'band workshop' which can involve up to half the campers. It lasts about 90 minutes and caters for all skill levels. During the day, there will be smaller workshops covering all kinds of music, dance and song – and sometimes other activities e.g. craft, theatre. In the evening, after dinner, the marquee will house children's games, a sing-around and a social dance. Many campers tend to leave the site during the day to go sightseeing/walking and return for dinner at about 6 o'clock. Each week, Friday night is party night when we have a special meal followed by dancing interspersed by turns.

### Water, Showers, Waste and Lavatories

We only require that the water supply is laid to the field edge. Using poly-piping, we distribute the water to the requisite points. We usually set up 6 taps: one in the kitchen tent, one at an outside sink for food preparation and rinsing pots and pans, one in the communal dish washing area outside the marquee, one beside the 2 hot water boilers in the marquee, one for the hot water boiler which serves the showers and one by the toilets for the toilet cleaners.

We have 2 shower tents on the field each with 2 shower cubicles. These have a dedicated gas heated boiler. A shower is achieved using a manual pump shower.

We recycle as much waste as possible – Food, glass and bottles, aluminium and tin cans, newspapers, cardboard boxes. Residual waste goes into sealed bin bags and is deposited in a closed skip which is replaced as required.



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We hire a lavatory trailer with ladies, gents and disabled facilities. The waste goes into 1,000-gallon tanks which are emptied regularly. Sometimes, for the 'grey' (hand-washing) water from the lavatories, we dig a soakaway pit (3m x 2m x 2m deep). For kitchen water waste (mainly dish- and vegetable-washing water) we have another soakaway pit (2m x 2m x 2m). We carry out the digging and back-filling of these pits during the camp setup/strike periods. We therefore need to be made aware of any underground service runs: gas, electricity, water etc.

**Our team.** There are no paid workers, but each weekly camp has up to six 'members of volunteer staff', experienced Folk Campers themselves, who ensure that the camp runs smoothly and is successful.

The Leader is the organiser and facilitator who oversees all the entertainment and the workshops. Their function is to make sure that the camp runs harmoniously and that everybody has an enjoyable, stimulating and enriching creative and social experience.

The Musician runs the daily band workshop, leads the band for evening dancing and ensures that all workshops are provided with the musicians they need.

The Caterers orders the food, supervise the daily cooks' team and has overall responsibility for the communal catering including food hygiene.

The Wardens are responsible for the logistics in camp. They assign duties to campers, buys non-food supplies, and look after the marquee, toilets and the shower tents. They are responsible for overseeing the camp's Health and Safety. This is a matter we take very seriously and our Health and Safety policy is subject to frequent and regular review.

### **Fuel**

We will use and pay for electricity used for the freezers at cost. We use propane gas cylinders (various sizes) for our own cooker and for heating shower water, if necessary.

**Camping Arrangements** The field will be used for camping and again we ask for exclusive use. Campers will bring tents, campervans and caravans. Most campers arrive by vehicle and normally park their car next to their tent but we can use a field edge parking arrangement where required, particularly during very wet periods.

**The Campers** Most campers will be in family groups. All ages from babes-in-arms to senior citizens will normally be present. Every camper will be pre-booked and we never accept bookings on site. The number of campers on each week is capped at 125. Everyone, teenagers included, has a duty: cooking, toilet-cleaning, marquee-cleaning, table-scrubbing, litter, recycling, etc. etc.



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**Planning** There will be no planning issues for the landowner. Folk Camps Society is what is known as an “exempted organisation”. This means that we have been recognised by DEFRA as a fit and responsible organisation and awarded an “exemption certificate”. Our events are thereby exempted from any requirement to apply for planning consent under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Furthermore, our camping exemption certificate under the Public Health Act 1936, allows us to mix tents and caravans. We hold equivalent Welsh and Scottish certificates.

**Insurance** We hold all necessary insurances and are happy to provide copies. References We can supply references from landowners whose land we have used previously. Website Our website is at <http://www.folkcamps.co.uk/>