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An Introduction to Somerset Christian Camps for New Leaders

Somerset Christian Camps runs for two identical weeks (with different children on each). For 2013, the dates are:

Sunday 11th August - Friday 16th August (Week 1)

and

Sunday 18th August - Friday 23rd August (Week 2).

We advise that new leaders commit to one week only, as Camp is very demanding, but we would welcome any offers for those who think they could manage both!

The idea is that **children aged 7-12** come to Camp and spend the week in tent groups of about 6 or 7 children with 2 leaders whose job it is to look out for them and make sure they're having a great time. It's hard work but really rewarding! We hope that having small tent groups will enable leaders to form close relationships with the children in their care. Somerset Christian Camps is specifically geared for those children who may have had no previous church contact - although each year we have a good number of children from Christian homes, with church connections, or who have become Christians in previous years at Camp, and have subsequently linked up with a church.

We have the run of a large manor house called Kingweston House in rural Somerset. We use the house and grounds during the day and the kids sleep in huge 10-man army tents at night with their leaders - proper camping! There are fantastic facilities, including hot showers, kitchen, Leaders' Common Room with television, and a small swimming pool for the leaders.

The week consists of three days on site doing all sorts of organised activities: craft, games, sports, etc. and two days where we go off on trips. Each evening we have 'Big Church', where we sing, have a story, sketches, quizzes, memory verses and the children learn more about God and being a Christian. Every morning, before breakfast, tent leaders follow up last night's thoughts with a 30 minute Quiet Time in their small tent groups which includes a relevant Bible reading and questions to discuss.

Tent Leaders need to be committed Christians, at least 16 years of age, and willing to give total commitment to the children in their care for 23 hours a day, for 5 days (you get an hour off in the evening!)

In addition, there is a team of Senior Staff, who are responsible for the overall running of the camp, spiritual programme, craft, sport, nurse, and 'Commy' and 'Adgy' who are responsible specifically for discipline.

All the leaders meet on the Sunday afternoon before Camp where we do a bit of training and then get to know each other and relax before the hard work begins! The week ends after the evening celebration on the Friday (at about 7pm).

We ask leaders to pay £40 per week to cover food costs and the like, but if money's a problem, we can sort something out as we wouldn't want finances to get in the way of your service.

We take very seriously our commitment to provide safe and appropriate care for our Campers. All leaders are subject to police vetting and agree to adhere to the Camp policies and procedures. This position is exempt from the provisions of the 'Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974', and Somerset Christian Camps will not accept known abusers in any position. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to acceptance as a Volunteer.

You will understand that we are looking for leaders who are striving for moral and spiritual integrity. If there are issues in your life which you are aware would be in conflict with appropriate leadership of young children at a Christian camp, we would encourage you not to apply at this time, but to seek help from your local church leadership in getting things sorted out. If you would like to speak to us in confidence about any issue, please do get in touch.

We very much appreciate your interest in coming to work at Summer Camp and hope that the formality of all this isn't too off-putting! If you would still like to come - please complete and return a booking form.

Every blessing,

Mark and Rebecca Wood
On behalf of the Camp Co-ordinating Team