

COVID19: FAQs 18th March 2020

Following the decision to suspend Woodcraft Folk group activities this FAQ has been created to answer your questions.



Woodcraft Folk
Education for Social Change

**YOUTH IS
NOT WASTED
ON THE YOUNG**

1. **Group nights**

1.1 **Can we still meet?**

No. At this moment in time all groups are being instructed to cease face to face group contact in response to the Government's guidance to reduce social contact.

Groups are being encouraged to explore ways of staying in touch, including virtual meetings. Please see remote group programme ideas and the Woodcraft Folk's event calendar for more information.

1.2 **We only use an outdoor venue - can we carry on meeting up?**

At this time all activities should be postponed.

1.3 **When can my group restart?**

At this time groups have been advised to plan to restart after the Summer half term holiday from Monday 1st June.

Woodcraft Folk will issue updated guidance based on Public Health England advice.

1.4 **What if I am concerned about the wellbeing of a child/family who normally attends my group?**

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of a child or family you should consider the following:

- Make contact by text, phone, email and ask how you can support
- Refer to local agencies such as food banks and other community responses to COVID19 (<https://freedomnews.org.uk/covid-19-uk-mutual-aid-groups-a-list/>)
- Help them review the Government advice regarding benefits and support available (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/financial-help-children>)
- If in extreme need support them to contact local child protection teams for support

1.5 **How can young people join in online activities?**

Woodcraft Folk will be hosting some UK-wide online sessions via the GoToMeeting platform that we have used in the past for training webinars. Participants can access this via a computer,

tablet or smartphone, or dial in using a mobile or landline (audio only, calls charged at your usual rate). There is also an app which can be downloaded.

If you want to use this system to host your own online sessions for your group, contact info@woodcraft.org.uk for login details. We recommend this system as it doesn't require participants to share their own contact details. It is highly recommended that young children are supervised by an adult while they are using any device - we cannot take responsibility for the safety of young people in the same way that we do when they attend a group night.

2. *Camps and residential*

2.1 We had a camp/residential scheduled for March-June, what should we do?

Please contact the venue and seek to postpone the event. It is important to communicate with the venue promptly. Please explain that you are following Government guidance to reduce social contact.

2.2 Will we be able to claim our deposit back?

Each venue will have their own booking terms and conditions.

Only in certain circumstances can businesses keep your deposit or advance payments, or ask you to pay a cancellation charge.

If you cancel the contract, the business is generally only entitled to keep or receive an amount sufficient to cover their actual losses that directly result from your cancellation.

Most will be understanding of the situation and will support groups to reschedule.

2.3 What should we do about monies already paid by individuals?

As an organisation we do not want to see families struggle financially, but at the same time we need to be mindful of the financial sustainability of each group and District.

Groups are recommended to seek support from families to carry forward any contributions to a postponed date. If anyone chooses not to give permission for donations or fees to be carried forward they should be given a full refund without question and without guilt.

If this makes things financially difficult for an individual group or District please contact Folk Office.

2.4 When should we reschedule?

During these uncertain times it is difficult to give an exact date as local conditions may be different, parents and children may still be anxious about going away.

Advice, at this time, is to reschedule residentials and camps to take place in the early Autumn or 2021.

2.5 Why are you suggesting residentials are rescheduled to the Autumn when groups are being advised to reopen in the Summer?

We believe that individuals will be anxious about social contact for a while, and that anxiety levels of engaging in local groups night activities will be lower than residential stays.

We also believe that it will be difficult to seek commitment to residential stays when the group is not meeting, thus possibly making the trips not viable.

3. *Preparing for Common Ground*

3.1 Will Common Ground Pre-Camp go ahead?

Yes, but as a series of virtual events throughout May. Although we have not been advised by the UK Government to cancel this event it feels wise to cancel due to the large number of travel restrictions in place across Europe and general uncertainty.

By making this early and clear decision about this event we are also offering our children, young people and volunteers the best chance of social distancing at a time when the pandemic is expected to be most impactful.

3.2 Will Common Ground still go ahead?

We are 100% committed to delivering the camp and have not been advised to cancel. We are monitoring advice and guidance from the UK Government, Kent Event Centre and our internal team of experts.

Right now, the prediction is that the peak of the pandemic is due to pass well before August 2020.

3.3. Will you extend the booking deadline for Common Ground?

Yes. The team will negotiate with suppliers and confirm a new extended deadline, for both bookings and camp fee payments.

3.4 If we can't meet, how can we fundraise for Common Ground?

Even during a period of self-isolation or reduced social contact you have several options:

- 1) Work on funding applications to trusts and foundations.
- 2) You could make an eBay auction of unwanted items from group members, friends and family. Larger items in particular can fetch a good price online. Compared to bake sales and community fundraising events, your upfront costs are close to zero.
- 3) Set up a crowdfunding page and cascade this as widely as possible.
- 4) Write to your local Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs. A template letter available from info@commonground.camp
- 5) Make a fundraising map of connections your group members have. Create a shared document where you can all add local companies, high profile individuals or organisations in your social network. Remember, donations are more likely using personal contacts! And do not feel embarrassed to ask. You are not asking for yourself, you are asking for the young people in your group.

4. Hall and other venue issues

4.1 Will we be liable for hall rent fees?

Many community venues are choosing to close, those that remain open will expect you to comply with rental terms and conditions. It is likely that your rental agreement will require a notice period, possibly 4 weeks.

Please contact the venue manager and ask for their understanding at this time.

4.2. We don't have a rental agreement. Will we still be liable for hall rent fees?

You should contact your usual meeting venue to clarify your group's plans and discuss the situation. While your venue may not be able to hold you to an informal agreement, if you don't keep them updated and agree a way forward they may be unwilling to let you return when groups are able to meet again.

5. Restricted funding and project activities

5.1 We have some restricted funding (such as COOP Good Causes, Awards for All) to deliver activities which we now can't deliver as agreed. What should we do?

Contact the funder to describe the situation and agree on the best course of action. Funders will generally prefer to see their funds used to deliver the activity that they funded, but it is important that you discuss plans with them if you are unable to meet the original conditions or timescales of the grant. Many beneficiaries will be in the same position.

Most funders will expect a delay in activities at this time.

6. Our financial viability is threatened

Please contact ros.epson@woodcraft.org.uk to discuss your circumstances, as we may be able to help you identify sources of support.

If you have any further questions please contact debs@woodcraft.org.uk

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