



Stage set for Woodcraft Folk's International Youth Festival of Co-operation.

This week thousands of young people from across the world will come to Sherwood Forest to for the International Festival of Co-operation, CoCamp, which is being run by the children's charity Woodcraft Folk. The festival is bringing together children and young people from over 30 countries for a fortnight of educational workshops, co-operative activities, bands, DJs and camping, which the organisers hope will engage all the participants in taking a active roles in running the festival themselves.

CoCamp is being coordinated by Woodcraft Folk, the co-operative children and young people's charity who run hundreds of educational youth groups in towns and cities all over the UK as well as large camps throughout the year. This summer Woodcraft Folk are teaming up with their partner organisations around the globe to bring children from countries like Palestine, Peru and Senegal to Britain for 2 weeks to meet, make friends and learn with UK children. CoCamp is an ambitious project and will have its own newspaper, TV channel, radio station, cafes and festival wide democracy organised into towns of campers each with libraries and town halls.

Mohammad Hussain, who is 8 and coming to CoCamp from Bagladesh said:

"I'm very excited about travelling to CoCamp. Its great that CoCamp is celebrating co-operation and working together. I've never been to England before so am a bit nervous but I can hardly wait to learn about Britain, make friends with children from the other side of the world and learn to DJ!"

CoCamp, which is supported by The Co-operative Group is being run as a giant co-operative. Every child, parent and volunteer going to the festival is a member of the co-operative and has an equal say in big decisions about the festival; from the programme of activities to the bed times. Woodcraft Folk, which has had a historic relationship with the co-operative movement since it was founded in 1925, hopes that the festival will help teach the participants both about the value of co-operating and about co-operatives as a fairer way of doing business.

Zoe Waterman, who is chair of the CoCamp Co-operative, said:

"CoCamp is an opportunity for us to build the co-operative community we wish to see; to not just talk about it, hope for it, campaign for it, but to actually live it for 10 days and start everyone thinking about how we can make that a reality in the wider world. Solving the climate crisis, creating a fair economy and overcoming tensions between nations; we need to work together which is why thousands of young people of all nationalities coming together to co-operate and have fun is so important."

INFO

- Woodcraft Folk run over 400 youth groups around the UK
- Woodcraft Folk are secular, coeducational and committed to positive social change.
- CoCamp will take place in Walesby from the 30th of July to the 9th of August

PHOTOGRAPHERS

- We are able to welcome photographers to CoCamp and have sought necessary permissions from participants attending for photographs of them to be used by the media. Please contact

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