

Woodcraft Folk Identity & Hands In feedback

Following the GC November meeting I have consulted some of the membership around Woodcraft Folk's identity at the following events:

- New leader training at Lockerbrook, Darsham, Bristol, Cudham & Berwick upon Tweed
- Eastern Region, Northern Gathering & Scottish Gathering (Elfins and Pioneers only)



I have also received responses from 22 groups through the Hands In activities (mainly Elfin and Open groups).

The following paper includes a summary of their responses.

Statements	Response
Be part of big Woodcraft activities like Folk Assembly or International Camp	Essential, agreed that there should be a choice of events and activities across age groups and regions
Sing/say the Envoi or sing Link Your Hands on group nights	Seen as more important by adults as a tool for starting and finishing group, lower priority given young people
Encourage members to wear Woodcraft clothing, e.g. Folk shirts, hoodies	Not seen as important, the freedom of not having to wear a uniform was very much appreciated by young people (even by those wearing Woodie clothing)
Sit/stand in a circle to have discussions or make decisions	Agreed, seen as a practical method by leaders and fair by young people
Do activities that are connected to Woodcraft's Aims & Principles	Agreed, although some debate as to whether all activities should be linked to the A&Ps
Offer the chance to do outdoor activities and go camping	Strongly agreed, although seen as more important by adults than young people
Try to be inclusive of young people regardless of gender, ethnicity or any additional needs	Essential, universal agreement although many recognised the challenge
Do activities that help other groups or the wider community (fundraising, campaigning, volunteering etc.)	There was greater support for this statement from young people
Have leaders/helpers who are volunteers, not paid staff	Members felt what was delivered was more important than who it was delivered by
Help young people have a say in planning what the group does	Agreed, although seen as more important by young people

Woodcraft Folk has made me think about...

- International inequality
- Fake news
- Other people and the world
- Social and world issues
- Doing and running activities as part of a group
- Building tree houses

Woodcraft Folk has helped me...

- Understand the value of nature and the things it does to help us
- Become more competent
- Learn how to put up tents
- To be who I am today

I think the most important thing about Woodcraft Folk is...

- The relationship you build with the people around you and making friends
- It is fun the way it is
- Teamwork
- Friendship (x2)
- Supporting others
- Acceptance
- Not wearing uniform but still being in a community
- We have a good time
- We socialise
- We can almost build tree houses

