



# Pathfinders Camp (Woodlarks)

Registered Charity No: 1171466

## Who are we?

Woodlarks was established in 1930 and over the last 80+ years has provided accessible camping for people with all kinds of disabilities.

Pathfinders Camp at Woodlarks was established in 1956 and we provide camping holidays for disabled women (ages 18 to 80+!!).

## Where are we?

Woodlarks Campsite

Tilford Road,

FARNHAM,

Surrey

GU10 3RN

Farnham railway station is about a mile away from camp and is served by regular trains from Waterloo. We can arrange for trains and buses to be met.

## How much do we cost?

We charge a fee of £190 for the week, which includes all your food and accommodation for the week. You may want to bring extra money to purchase souvenirs.

## How do I apply?

You will need to complete an application form and send this to our Camp Leader.

Once we receive your application, we will check what you have told us about your DBS status and write out for references. If you have applied to join us as a helper and have never been DBS checked or your most recent disclosure is more than two years old, we will start the process for DBS checking. We accept helpers provisionally on receipt of an application but subject to receipt of satisfactory references and until your DBS status is known.

If you have applied to join us as a camper, we still write out for references, as this helps us greatly when we are matching up campers and helpers later on in the planning for camp. We accept campers provisionally on receipt of an application but subject to satisfactory references and to our being able to recruit sufficient help.



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## **What facilities do we have?**

Woodlarks Campsite is designed to be accessible to campers with a variety of different disabilities, and therefore an equal variety of care needs. The site is equipped with two wash blocks which include toilets and bathrooms, including rooms with tracking hoists, shower beds, an accessible bath, closomat toilets, grab rails, adjustable sinks, changing tables, and sluice rooms. Disabled campers have first call on all specialised toilets and bathrooms but there is also a full range of facilities available for helpers' use.

The tents on site reflect a similar level of accessibility, and include some floored tents where hoists can be used and some with electricity available for the use of overnight feeds etc. Beds and mattresses are provided, as needed, to ensure that we can offer a real 'canvas camping experience' to people who might not be able to sleep down at ground level.

There is a staffed laundry (for essential washing only) and a medical room with secure storage for medication. There are indoor beds (for those who need them) and wheelchair charging stations for powered chairs. There is a tuck shop and souvenir shop available on site.

All our helpers receive basic instruction on how to use different equipment – including hoists – and in manual handling techniques. There will always be experienced helpers and the "Crew" team around to guide all new recruits until you feel confident in giving or receiving care from your partner.

## **What do we expect of you?**

We ask all participants, and visitors, to treat each other with dignity and respect.

### Camper

As a camper, you will be paired with a helper to assist you during the week. This is not about having someone to run around after you, but to enable your personal care so you can participate as fully as possible in camp life.

You are the expert and are in charge of your care and you need to inform your helper what you need. Please be aware that there may be some things you can complete independently when at home which may be more of a struggle when on camp due to the different environment and facilities.

Look after your helper and make sure they are taking care of themselves as well.



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## Helper

As a helper you will be paired with a disabled camper and will be their personal assistant for the week. Everyone is allocated into a team of approximately 10-12 other people, and there are always experienced campers and helpers in each team alongside newer recruits.

All of our disabled participants have different levels of abilities and care needs and you will be expected to provide the individual you have been paired with, with their personal care and support throughout the week.

Our ethos is very much around facilitating and enabling our disabled participants to join in as many activities on camp as possible (both chores and activities) so think in terms of 'doing with' rather than 'doing for'.

We ask that you join us for the entire week where possible (Sunday to Friday) to ensure continuity of care for the individual you are paired with.

## **What activities do we offer?**

We offer a schedule of activities throughout the week which may include:

Arts & Crafts	Campfires	Hike lunches
Wheelchair dancing	Quiz Night	Archery
Wheelchair swing	Party Night (either live music or a disco)	Nature Walks
Zip line	Heated outdoor swimming pool	

The 20m outdoor heated swimming pool was purpose designed with accessibility in mind, so has a hoist, shallow steps and newly refurbished changing rooms with hoists and showers.