

Dear new member



Woodcraft Folk
Education for Social Change

**YOUTH IS
NOT WASTED
ON THE YOUNG**

Welcome to Woodcraft Folk, the co-operative children and young people's movement.

We're really pleased you've decided to join our membership. With over 350 volunteer-led groups meeting weekly around the UK, and an exciting array of projects, campaigns and partnerships thriving in and around the organisation, Woodcraft Folk has plenty of ways to get involved, and fill your calendar with as much progressive, grassroots education for social change as you like!

Below is a brief introduction to each aspect of Woodcraft Folk. Click through to the website for further information on each topic, or [contact us](#) to ask questions and get involved right away.

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What does it mean to be a member of Woodcraft Folk?

You've joined a unique movement united by the vision of a fairer, more sustainable world. The time and money you contribute to Woodcraft Folk enable us to educate new generations of children and young people, in exciting and progressive ways, to develop a worldview and take action for social change. Our belief in co-operation and equality means we all work together as equals to shape the organisation and to ensure even our youngest members can take part in Woodcraft Folk democracy, as well as developing their participation in wider society.

You're now part of a large, friendly community who collaborate on campaigns, projects, inspiring summer camps and of course grassroots activities for young people. The most immediate way to be involved is through [your local Woodcraft Folk group](#) but if there isn't one currently near to you, or you're more interested in national activities, the best way to stay in touch is through the [website](#), the monthly e-newsletter and our termly members newspaper The Courier; through these you'll be engaged in debates, invited to events and kept informed of the latest resources and support. Your membership card/certificate/number also entitles you to [YHA discounts](#), amongst other things.

You've just signed up to the **Woodcraft Folk Aims and Principles:**

Woodcraft Folk is an educational movement for children and young people, designed to develop self confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, friendship, peace and cooperation. Our Principles are below. Click through to a [full explanation on the website](#).



- Education for Social Change
- A Co-operative and Sharing Attitude to Life
- International Understanding
- The Rights of the Child
- Freedom of Religion
- One World
- A World at Peace
- A Movement for all People for all Time
- Affirmation

Membership of Woodcraft Folk is open to people of any age, so if you've joined as a parent or guardian, don't forget that the youngest people in your family can join for free!

[The under 16 membership form is online.](#)



Woodcraft Folk was started by a young person.

In 1925, 19 year-old Leslie Paul broke away from an existing youth organisation and, with others in south London, established the first Woodcraft Folk groups. They became the first nationwide youth organisation to accept both boys and girls, and members of any religion or none. Since then Woodcraft Folk has been the UK's only national, co-operative youth movement.

[Read more about Woodcraft Folk's history here.](#)

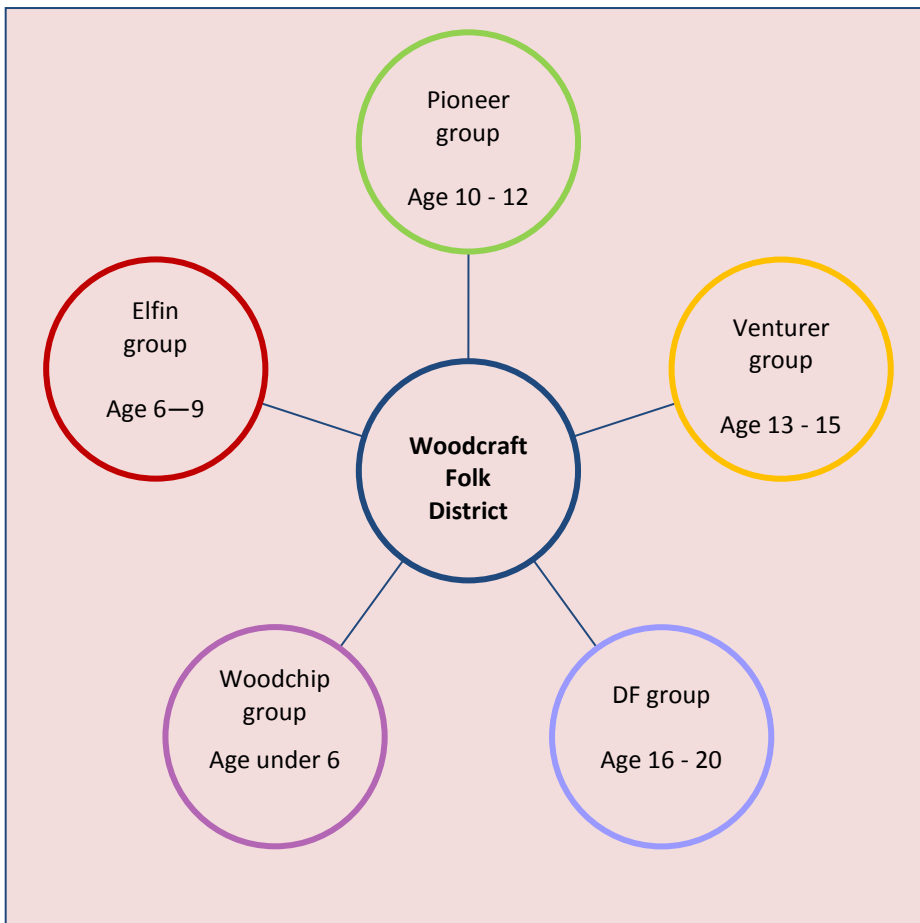


Children and young people continue to develop the skills and confidence to explore their surroundings and take a lead in running their group, camp or project, and we're committed to supporting them to do this. Teenage members often help out with a younger group, and District Fellows, Woodcraft Folk's 16 – 20 year old age group, run their own events, projects and campaigns, which you can read about on their website www.spanthatworld.com. They've taken action on human trafficking, nuclear energy, and relations between Israel and Palestine, to name just a few issues. One of their current initiatives is The Share, which aims to give DFs training in low-carbon skills and ultimately build a sustainable national DF Centre.

[Find out more about youth leadership in Woodcraft Folk here.](#)

The shape of Woodcraft Folk around the UK

Woodcraft Folk is organised into local Districts, which usually include one or more of each age group and a District Committee which organises local finances, events and connection to the national movement. Find out more about [what happens in Woodcraft groups on the website](#). Nationally, we're led by [General Council](#), our trustee board.



New volunteers are always extremely welcome to offer help to their local District!

Find your closest groups on [the map](#) or [read more about volunteering](#).

Woodcraft Folk has a small staff team, mostly based at Folk Office in London but also working in [Wales](#) (Gwerin Y Coed) and [Scotland](#).

[Find contact details online.](#)

Our Folk Office details for general enquiries:

020 7703 4173

info@woodcraft.org.uk

But don't forget to check www.woodcraft.org.uk too!

Start your own Woodcraft Folk group—and help make Woodcraft Folk bigger and stronger

We would love to help more communities develop their own Woodcraft groups. It's a great way to meet new people, make connections in your area and engage children and young people in outdoor adventures and issues like human rights and the environment.

There are lots of different ways of running a Woodcraft Folk group, including parent co-operatives, leader-led groups and self-organising groups of young people. Whichever method you'd like to try, we can put you in touch with any other volunteers in your area and supply you with [ideas and resources](#) to get your group going.



Get support, training and resources

We've developed hundreds of activity plans, videos, guides and policies to help volunteers run groups and events within Woodcraft Folk. Most are at www.woodcraft.org.uk/resources.

We run as much [training](#) as we can for both adult leaders and young people who want to develop their skills, and promote our training events on www.woodcraft.org.uk/calendar.

As you get more involved in Woodcraft Folk, you might want the support of a [mentor](#) or a [New Group Buddy](#)—just ask!



Buy Woodcraft goodies from Folk Supply

Woodcraft Folk branded equipment, clothing and badges are all gathered together in our shop, Folk Supply, which you can access on the website or via the Woodcraft Folk office. [An order form is online](#).

A Woodcraft Folk camp isn't complete without Woodie Hoodies, Woodcraft song books and Woodcraft torches! New hoodies and t-shirts are usually produced to commemorate our best-loved events, projects and international camps.



Join projects and campaigns

Woodcraft members have been present in huge numbers at peaceful protests such as the demonstrations against the Iraq war in 2003, and marches against education cuts in 2010. There are lots of [campaigns](#) and [projects](#) around Woodcraft Folk, who would love to hear from you if you're passionate about the issue they're tackling or have skills to share with them. We also produce educational materials and campaign materials you find on the website.



International work

Woodcraft Folk is a member of the [International Falcon Movement](#) (IFM), which links us to many other youth groups around the world and provides Woodcraft members with amazing opportunities to travel, volunteer overseas, participate in exchanges and broaden their experience of the world. On our website you'll find stories from young people who've taken up these opportunities – and chances to apply for them yourself.



Explore our Outdoor Centres and Campsites

Groups of young people from inside and outside Woodcraft Folk absolutely love staying at our centres and campsites, where they can explore the natural world, take on new outdoor challenges and co-operate to cook their own meals and look after their environment. Some are run by dedicated staff, others by local volunteers, and all are in beautiful rural areas.

[Find your closest online.](#)

Donate £1 to Woodcraft Folk through

[Lucky Club](#) and be in with the chance of winning half the prize money in the monthly draw. The other half goes to Woodcraft Folk—so it's a win-win situation! You can buy as many tickets as you like each month, on a monthly, 3-monthly or 6-monthly basis.

[Watch one of our Leicestershire groups' short film about themselves](#)

Connect to Woodcraft Folk on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Vimeo](#)

Span the world with friendship: forward this PDF to a friend

Anyone who shares our aims and principles is welcome to become a member of Woodcraft Folk, either as a supporter member who wants to contribute financially to education for social change, or as a full member who wants to get involved in grassroots educational activities.

We also encourage the affiliation of organisations such as [Trade Unions](#) who share our belief in equality and co-operation.



Woodcraft Folk is a Registered charity in England & Wales (1148195) and in Scotland (SC039791).

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