



Who can take part in a Summer Youth Event?

Guides and Scouts aged 11-18, along with a limited number of adult leaders.

Our summer programmes are designed to encourage young people to meet and mix with other Guides/Scouts from around the world, and to push themselves out of their comfort zone in the outdoors. In line with WAGGGS mission and vision we also aim to support young people to develop the skills needed for leadership, including resilience and independence.

With this in mind our summer programmes are aimed at groups of around 8-20 youth accompanied by adults in a ratio of 2 adults per 8 youth. For very small groups (fewer than 6 youth) and large groups (more than 20 youth) please contact us to discuss suitability prior to booking.

Leaders must be sure that all participants in their group are socially and emotionally capable of participating in an active week with peers aged 11-18 (minimum age depends on event). We cannot make any exceptions to the minimum age requirements.

What activities are included in each event?

All three events offer:

- Six-night stay
- Pinning ceremony and guided tour on arrival evening
- Four day programmes
- One free day – plan your own activity
- Four evening programmes

Programme activities may change each year. Please check the Info Pack for the specific event you are interested in to see details of included programming.

How much physical activity is involved in each event?

The three different events offer programme with varying levels of physical challenge. However, it is important to note that no matter which event you choose, Our Chalet is located at 1,350 metres (4,400 feet) above sea level and in a mountainous location. The nearest public transport is a 1 km (0.6 miles) steep uphill walk from Our Chalet.

All participants, including leaders, must be physically capable of this walk, or be prepared to pay for their own extra transport throughout their stay. Exceptions are possible to enable Guides/Scouts with disabilities to participate (more information below).

The Information Pack for each event gives descriptions of physical activity involved in the programme. We strongly recommend reading the activity descriptions in the Information Packs carefully before choosing your event.

Do all the leaders need to be physically fit enough to participate in the activities?

At least one leader aged 18+ must take part in all activities with their group. The leader is responsible for behaviour of their group and any first aid needs. The leader must be physically and mentally fit for the activities and willing and able to lead by example.

Your Member Organisation may require more than one leader to take part, groups are responsible for checking their own Member Organisations rules.

Our group has people who are unfit/don't like walking/have an injury; can they use the transport option outlined in the adaptations section of the activity descriptions?

The transport options outlined in the adaptations information are to allow participants with permanent physical disabilities or medical conditions that affect their mobility to take part in the programme.

For participants with temporary conditions that affect their mobility (e.g. sprained ankle, injured knee, etc.) or for those who do not wish to walk, taxis can be arranged at the cost of the participant/group.

Our group has a youth member who has a sensory impairment/learning disability/physical disability/medical condition; can we take part?

Our Chalet is passionate about offering international experience and adventurous, outdoor activities to girls and young women with disabilities. Our Discover programme is well suited for Guides/Scouts with disabilities to try outdoor activities for the first time or build on existing skills.

Our Explore and Adventure programmes are suitable for those ready to push themselves further and tackle more challenging physical activities.

Youth must be able to participate in age-appropriate group activities and be able to cope with a busy programme schedule. The programme is not suitable for youth who are prone to/have a recent history of elopement or wandering, those who have a recent history of self-harm or violent behaviour, and those who need frequent rest periods/naps.

Youth who need 1:1 support must attend with an adult (age 18+) who can provide the appropriate support. Our Chalet staff are not permitted to provide 1:1 support or assist with personal care or medical care.

Our group has a member with severe food allergies, can they take part?

We recommend contacting us to discuss this prior to booking. We can cater to many allergies, however, we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment due to the open nature of our site and the many varied locations we use for our programme activities.

How many leaders can we bring with our group? Why is there a limit on this number?

As a WAGGGS World Centre, Our Chalet places girls and young women at the centre of all our work. Our programme aims to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

In line with this mission, Our Chalet works to ensure as many girls and young women as possible are able to take part in the event programmes offered. Our Chalet uses an adult:youth ratio to keep as many summer event places as possible open to youth participants, while also making sure groups are able to be accompanied by the correct number of adult leaders to keep all participants appropriately supervised and safe.

The ratio is two adults (aged 18+) for every eight youth participants. 18-year-olds may book on to the event as a youth participant if they are a youth participant in their organisation. If an 18-year-old is a leader in their organisation they must book on to the event as an adult.

Exceptions to this ratio can be made if extra adults are needed:

- to provide support, supervision or care for a youth participant with a disability or medical condition which means the participant requires 1:1 support; or
- to meet the international travel requirements of the group's Member Organisation.

Evidence of the need for additional adults to fulfill these criteria may be requested at the time of booking.

Adults above the 2:8 ratio not needed to fulfill these criteria may book as an independent guest (accommodation and meals only) subject to availability nine months prior to the event start date. Full details of how to book additional adults as independent guests can be obtained by e-mailing info@ourchalet.waggs.org.

Our small unit/troop has more than two adults but they all want to travel as they all have daughters in our group/they have all been with our group for a long time. Can we bring all the leaders?

No, we do not make exceptions to the adult:youth ratio for parents to attend, nor for length of service of leaders.

For groups of 5 or fewer youth we ask you to contact us to discuss suitability prior booking on to the event. It may be that our family events are more suitable for your group.

Our group will be self-catering, can we bring an extra adult to cook?

Yes, we offer free accommodation for one caterer for self-catering groups of 10+, the caterer cannot take part in programme activities. However, you can rotate which adult takes on the role of caterer each day.

For groups of fewer than 10 you can add a caterer to your group but they must pay for their accommodation. You can add the caterer at the time of booking and do not need to wait until nine months prior to the event start date.

What happens if we book within the adult:youth ratio but then have youth members drop out of the trip?

If the change in number of youth members booked brings your group out of the adult:youth ratio, you will have two options for your extra adults:

- Convert their booking to an independent (accommodation and meals only) stay.
- Cancel their booking and receive a full refund in the form of a credit towards your group's remaining balance. Please note: refunds are only possible in the case where a leader place is cancelled due to becoming outside the adult:youth ratio. In all other cases bookings are non-refundable.

Can we book on to more than one event?

Yes! Subject to availability, groups are welcome to book on to two consecutive events, e.g. Explore and Adventure.

We recommend groups pay careful attention to the activities involved in each event and choose the combination of events with the right level of physical activity and challenge for their group.

For groups booking in to two events one night of independent accommodation between the two events can be offered at a reduced price. Please note, depending on staff availability evening meals may not be available between events.

Can Our Chalet help us book our travel or recommend airlines?

No, Our Chalet is operated by a very small staff team and we do not have the capacity to help groups book travel. We recommend contacting your Member Organisation to ask if they have resources for this or recommended travel agents for your country.