



## **Volunteering at Christian Endeavour Holiday Centres Beechwood Court & The Pleasaunce**

### ***Your questions answered***

#### **1. What are Christian Endeavour Holiday Centres?**

Christian Endeavour Holiday Centres Ltd (CEHC) is a charity which was originally part of the Christian Endeavour movement - a very large international youth organisation which still exists throughout the world. CEHC is now autonomous but still operates within the principles of encouraging Christian lives in the service of God.

#### **2. What do the centres do?**

Our two centres; Beechwood Court and The Pleasaunce are popular with families, young people and older folk alike for holidays throughout the year, but particularly in the summer, at Easter and other public holidays. These holidays are always great fun, being run as a large house party where everyone can get involved in the games, outings and other activities. As a conference centre, we welcome schools, church groups, young people's groups throughout the year for whole weeks, weekends or single days. Although the centres are open to everyone – not just Christians - the Christian emphasis is always present and guests are able to take part in the devotions if they wish to. We are non-denominational.

#### **3. What is Beechwood Court?**

Beechwood Court is our centre in Conwy, North Wales and can accommodate up to 60 guests. It is a country house built in the 1880s, set on the side of Conwy Mountain in 9 acres of land on the edge of the world-famous Snowdonia National Park. The historic walled town of Conwy, with its castle and harbour, is a fifteen-minute walk from the house. From the cities of Manchester and Liverpool, it is approximately 1½ hours by car, by train it is 2 to 3 hrs- bus times are longer.

#### **4. What is The Pleasaunce?**

The Pleasaunce is our centre in the north of Norfolk on the East coast of England and can accommodate approximately 80 guests. It is a historical country house built in the 1890s and set in 6 acres of grounds leading down to the coast with its miles of sandy beach. It is located in the village of Overstrand, near the town of Cromer and travelling by car around 45 minutes from the historic city of Norwich.

## **5. Who can volunteer at Beechwood Court or The Pleasaunce?**

As a volunteer, you must be a committed Christian, 18 years old or over, and usually offer a minimum of three months, although we give priority to those who are prepared to stay with us for up to a year. There may also be a small number of places available in the summer for a short stay of just a few weeks. You must be able and willing to speak English, and to live under the authority of the Centre Managers and their deputies. You must be in good physical and mental health and be prepared to do a variety of duties.

If you live close to one of our centres you may want to volunteer for just a few hours occasionally to help out with such tasks as gardening, decorating, cleaning etc and this is a very important role too.

## **6. How would I get to the centres?**

You must make your own arrangements to travel to the UK and you are responsible for your own travel fares.

For Beechwood Court, most staff arrive at Manchester Airport and from there travel by train or coach to Llandudno Junction station where we can normally collect you by car.

For The Pleasaunce, most staff arrive at Stansted, Heathrow or Gatwick Airport and then travel by train or coach to Norwich or Cromer where we can normally collect you by car.

We will send you more details of travel arrangements if you are accepted to come to our centres.

## **7. What sort of things will I be doing?**

You will assist the permanent staff in the practical tasks needed to look after the guests who come to the centres, and in the upkeep of the facilities. Duties entail volunteering in the kitchen and pantry helping to prepare meals, and waiting on in the dining room as well as cleaning in the bedrooms and downstairs rooms. You may also occasionally help in the gardens or the office, usually on a rota basis.

## **8. What time will I need to be available?**

Normally we ask you to be available for an average of about seven hours, usually spread through the day, with the equivalent of two complete days off each week. In very busy periods, especially Easter, August and Christmas and New Year, longer hours may be necessary, while other quieter weeks may be less.

## **9. Where will I stay?**

Sleeping accommodation is provided on site in bedrooms of up to 2 people with shared bathrooms and toilets. A staff and volunteer's community room is provided for the use of the team.

## **10. What about Christian activities?**

All staff and volunteers are expected to attend community prayers, and take part in the fellowship of the centre whenever this is practical. This may include evening devotions, prayer and worship meetings, fun and games with the guests and the summer weekly 'concert'.

### **11. What is the expense involved of volunteering?**

You are expected to pay for your travel costs to and from the centres when you arrive and depart. Your food, accommodation and laundry are all provided free. Other appropriate expenses will be covered by the centres on submittal of receipts.

### **12. How will I benefit from coming?**

You will live and volunteer with other Christians, as well as having contact with guests from different church backgrounds. Sharing rooms, meals and lifestyle in a community environment, even for a short while, is not always easy but many helpers over the years have found their characters strengthened, their Christian faith deepened and new lifelong friends made.

### **13. What should I do now?**

Please pray that God will guide you clearly if this is what He wants for you - then you need make a decision as to whether you want to join the volunteer community at Beechwood Court or The Pleasaunce. You must decide to be very committed to being a good member of the team for the whole of the time you say you will be there.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please send an Expression of Interest, stating why you are interested in applying to be a volunteer. Include a CV if you have one to:  
volunteers@cehc.org.uk

We will then reply to you and send you all the application details, if appropriate.