

## **PRESENTATION OF CBF**

"Compagnons Bâisseurs" was born fifty years ago ( 1957 ); it aimed at helping a population who had been hard hit by the damage of World War II. From the very beginning right up to the present, "Compagnons Bâisseurs" has been putting solidarity into practice by means of workcamps - as well as promoting peace and better understanding between people from all over the world. For this, young people from different countries, join us to help realise our projects: workcamps to improve better conditions of life for families in social difficulties, construction camps to create social centres (these can anything from cabins for walkers in the mountains to full scale buildings which host courses and provide accommodation) workcamps for environmental protection or rehabilitation of sites of national heritage. Others activities are carried out during the year by the different branches of COMPAGNONS BATISSEURS include medium and long-term voluntary service; initiatives aimed at integrating people with social difficulties, training, short term workcamps held over week ends...). If you want to know more about our actions, ask one of your animators.

## **CBF ADULT WORKCAMPS**

CBF workcamps are organised with local communities, carried out through the completion of a concrete work project useful to the community requiring approximately 32 hours per week. Groups have between 8 and 16 participants; the average is 18 in adult camps. We try to have 1/3 of French participants in each project and we reserve 1 place for volunteers "with fewer opportunities". We will not ask volunteers to give more than they can physically do. But we rely on their good will, in order to achieve the project which is the genuine reason of the workcamp. All camps have at least one but generally 2 group leaders, they act as a co-ordinator between the responsible of the project and the team of volunteers. They also help the volunteers to carry out the work. A workcamp also means an intensive group life experience with intercultural exchanges bringing together young people from different social backgrounds and different countries. Teams are mixed and international. Keep in mind that we expect the participation of the volunteers for all the duration of the workcamp

Accommodation: is not the same in all our workcamps, but it is often in tents.

Leisure time: Groups have a small budget for leisure activities. Leisure time is not planned before: it will be organised by the all group and it will be based on the discovery of the region. Most of our camps are located in small isolated places and there is not always a car available.

Languages: Generally during the workcamps we use French and English. In some camps another language could be used depending on the participants' knowledge.

Arrival: It's important that the volunteers arrive on time at the meeting point. In some camps it could be a real problem and we can't guarantee to be able to pick them up again the same day. In these cases we announce it clearly in the project description and again in the infosheet.

Insurance: Each participant is insured by our organisation (Civil Liability and Corporal Accidents). It comes in addition to the usual social insurance. Be aware that this insurance doesn't cover travel to/ from the camp. And such insurance doesn't cover the theft or the loss of the personal belongings. The use of a private motor vehicle is out of our insurance guarantee.

## **Specific information about CBF teenager camps**

In France, activities for minors are protected by the law which gives rules supposed to facilitate the organisation of workcamps and the security of the volunteers. During the teenager seminar organised in December 2003, we spoke a lot about regulation in the different countries. We invite you to have a look at the final report where you will find a table about regulation in the different countries on: accommodation - food health and safety- leader training and diploma- travelling alone -leisure activities- work aspect- drugs sex and alcohol. This table should be available in the Alliance database and we invite you to complete it, if you have not made it yet!!! Through this sharing we can improve our co-operation and have a better understanding of each other we will be also able to give a better information to the parents and the volunteers themselves. Practical info:

- + As on adult camps the volunteers achieve a concrete project, working around 20 hours per week.
- + The leader team is composed of qualified leaders (French diploma); they are staff paid and they are responsible of the volunteers.
- + Teenagers are taken in charge on their arrival at the train station; they can't leave the camp without a written authorisation signed by their parents and sent to our organisation before the camp start.
- + Each volunteer must bring the "health record form" and give it to the camp leader on arrival.