



**Information pack for volunteers**

# Welcome to Vir'Volt !

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**VIR'VOLT**

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**International Village  
for volunteering encounters**

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# L'association Vir'Volt

*Once upon a time...*



In **1995**, some friends already committed as volunteers in **Solidarités Jeunes**, decided to create a **Regional Delegation in Ile-de-France**, which is the region around Paris. With the purpose to **achieve positive change in the society** giving the opportunity to youth from all over the world to **meet and act together**, those friends wished to deal with **international camp** in the region, mixing **international participants, youngsters in social exclusion, inhabitants and local participants**.

In **2018**, the association is starting a new project in the town of **La Ferté-Alais**, in the Essonne department, **52km south from Paris**. The life of the delegation follows the season: **from June to Septembre**, Vir'Volt organises **workcamps** and **international projects** which gather a lot of people from different areas and backgrounds. **From October to May**, 5 international long term volunteers, local interns and 6 french volunteers realise different **workshops** and **educational activities** organised in the region.



A black and white photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there is a ground covered in fallen leaves. In the middle ground, on the left, there is a simple tent with a wooden fence in front of it. On the right, there is a wooden cabin or structure. The background is filled with trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy.

# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is **an exchange between people** who wishes to offer their time, energy and views to a **general interest project.**

It is also an intercultural ground of **learning** (apprenticeship), **experiments** and **personal construction.**

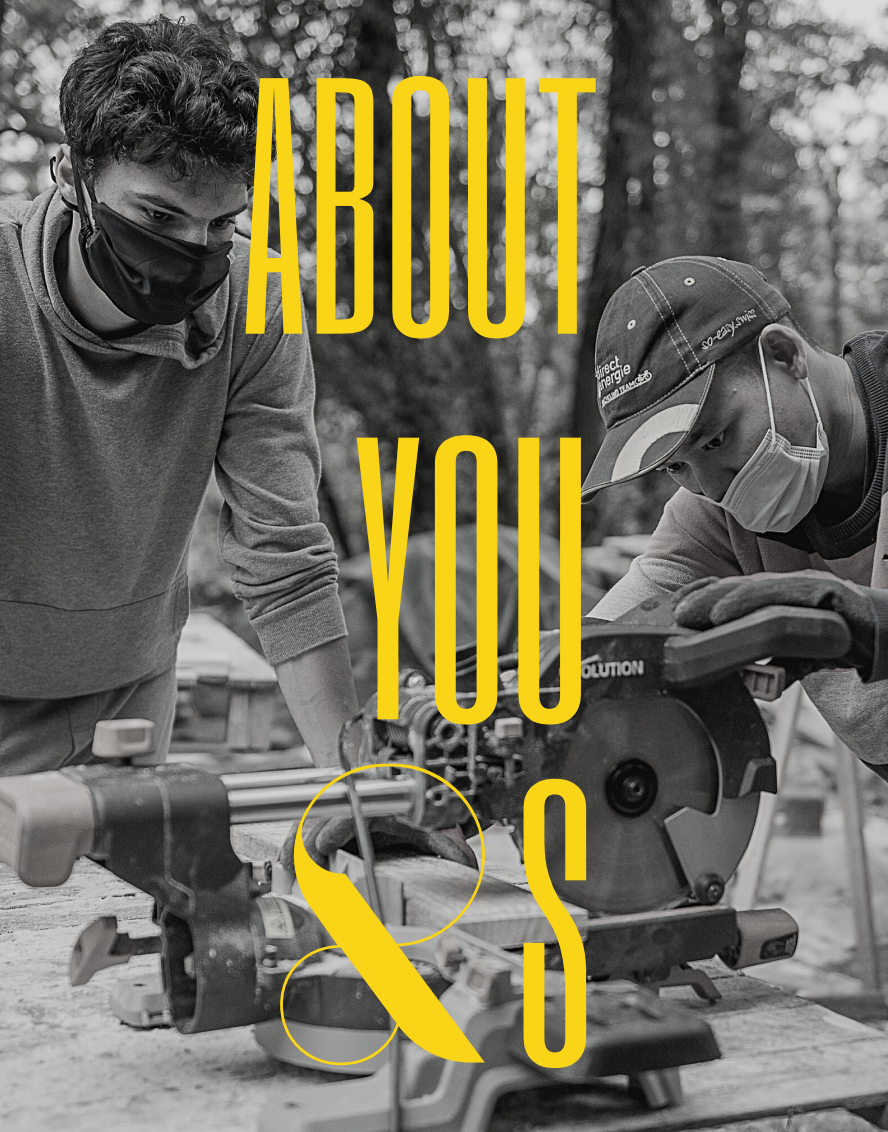
Volunteering is above all a **personal commitment**, wich invites you to a **deep discovery.**

## Why volunteering?

# *A wealth of benefits*

- To make a real difference in a community
- An opportunity to support a cause you feel strongly about
- A means of building self-esteem and confidence
- A great way to learn or develop skills and interests
- A pathway to enhance work experience
- A way to meet new people and so having a new comprehension of diversity discovering other ways.





**Encouraging encounters between people**

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**Raising awareness about the natural world**

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**Acting and developing skills**

**Vir'Volt**

In **2017**, the association is starting a new project in partnership with the town of **La Ferté-Alais** to develop a new hosting center, on the place of the former town campsite. We're using **yurts, roulottes and tents** in order to host people on the site.

The objective pursued by Vir'Volt is to **develop** on and near the site **various projects** connected with **non-formal education** and to **host groups of youngsters facing obstacles** who come to take part to the projects of the association.

**The role of the volunteers in this project is to support the association and its team to develop the international village.** As a volunteer in this project, you will experience **working with other people** and discover **how to live with people** who come from different countries, backgrounds and religions.

Besides you will have the opportunity to **work a lot outside**, building birdhouses, pallet furnitures and book boxes with recycled material, and taking care of the association's surrounding.

You will be able to **organize activities with and for the local community**. It can take the form of an art festival, of intercultural evening or some workshops about ecological practices.

As a volunteer you will also have the opportunity to participate to **hosting groups of young people supported by socio-educational structures** for a week or two and work with them. You will take part in **organizing international work camps, youth exchanges, seminars and trainings**.

As a volunteer in Vir'Volt, your role will also be to **promote the importance of clean environment, of collective life, of the richness of diversity, cooperation and equity**.

You will also have **the opportunity to share** with other young people **your volunteering experiences** in order to promote **international mobility and civil participation**.



**Ecology**

**Intercultural**

**Equity**

**Civil participation**

# OPEN TO EVERYONE ALL OVER THE WORLDS

Vir'Volt is an **inclusive project**, aiming to offer educational experiences and discovery to everybody.

Not all youngster are aware of the possibilities to travel to another country, to be involved in a volunteering experience, one of the goal of the association is to **open up the volunteering world to those far away from it**.

To encourage **intercultural encounter** and cooperation within the different layers of society, and within the culture, Vir'Volt is working closely with social and educational institutions, working with **youngster facing obstacles** in life.

Job centers, medical institutions, special schools, social services are Vir'Volt's regular partners. Those partnerships give us the possibility to **host in our site** youngster coming from different backgrounds, with their educators.



For **one day, one or even two weeks**, you will have the opportunity to be a part of an inclusive project, and maybe contribute to **trigger the desire of some**, to discover what it is to live abroad, and act for others...





# LEADING WORKCAMP

# BY YOUTH EXCHANGES



**During the summer**, on its site or in the surrounding towns and villages, Vir'Volt organises **international workcamps** and **European youth exchanges**.

Workcamps : For **2 to 3 weeks**, a group of **12 volunteers of different nationalities** meet to carry out a concrete **project of general and local interests**. As a **co-animator**, you will **accompany the participants** in their daily and collective life: managing a budget, proposing activities, promote group dynamics...

Youth exchanges : **24 young people from different countries** are meeting around a **2 to 3 weeks project** with an **educational aim**. They organise a **series of activities** around a theme in various fields: the environment, the equality for all, the information and medias... Your role: **to accompany and guide them** in the organisation and running the activities

# Facilitator Training

**Throughout the year, you will be prepared in several collective training times: preparation meetings, work on the permanent workcamp, collective life meetings, animation work...**

**A special 5 days training course will also be offered, designed and run by Solidarités Jeunesses. It will give you the tools and necessary methods to lead groups.**





## The community life

### *Living together*

You will **share the daily life** with several other volunteers, international and/or national. As much as possible, we make sure that there is a **mix of nationalities and genders** and we work at preserving a **cooperating climate** within the team.

## Accommodation

You will sleep in **your own bedroom** in a **roulotte** and will **share the bathroom** with **4 other volunteers**.

## Cook & Food

Everyday has its cooking team which means that at least **once a week you will be part of the kitchen team** with other volunteers. Food shopping is made **organic, collectively** and once a week. We're taking those meals together in "le Chalet" which is our common space with the kitchen and the dining room. We are by the way **mostly cooking vegetarian meals** with the purpose, between others, to **reduce our impact** on our beautiful planet.



## The place

The place is located in a **former camping site**, in a peaceful **natural environment** with a lot of trees so you will have plenty of fresh air and quietness for a good night rest.

All the necessary facilities are available either on the site or in town (5 min walking).

# How to get here ?

## **If you come by train:**

From Paris Gare de Lyon you take the RER D in the direction of Malesherbes and get off the train at La Ferté-Alais (1h15 aprox.) Someone will welcome you at the train station.

## **If you come by plane:**

### **From the Roissy-Charles de Gaulles airport**

-> Take the RER B direction Massy Palaiseau and get off the train at Châtelet-Les Halles and then take the RER D destination Malesherbes and get off at La Ferté-Alais.

### **From the Orly airport**

-> Take the ORLYVAL until the stop Antony and from there take the RER B destination Aéroport CDG 2/TGV and get off the train at Châtelet-Les Halles to take then the RER D destination Malesherbes and get off at La Ferté-Alais.

### **From the Beauvais Airport**

-> Take the Beauvais-Paris Airport Shuttle bus to Paris Porte Maillot and from there, take the metro line M1 direction Château de Vincennes and get off at station Paris Gare de Lyon to take then the RER D destination Malesherbes and get off at La Ferté-Alais.

# THE "SOLIDARITÉS JEUNESSES" MOVEMENT



*Stronger together*

By coming to **Vir'Volt**, you are joining a **national movement** present in several regions of France: **Solidarités Jeunesses**.

Since its creation, SJ **participates concretely to peace construction**, fostering intercultural meeting here in France and abroad. SJ works through **participative pedagogy** which encourages initiatives, commitment valuation and gathers forces and intelligences from all, volunteers, employees...

For you, it will concretely mean that you will be able to **participate to the gathering of volunteers** taking place once a year, to inter-delegation **exchanges** to spend one week in another SJ's center and to participate to some trainings organized by the movement.





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**Follow us !**



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