



# CENTRE DE BEAUMOTTE

INFOSHEET FOR VOLUNTEERS








The Centre de Beaumotte was founded in 1979 and is a non-formal educational association.

It is one delegation of Solidarités Jeunesses in the Franche-Comté region.

The aim of our centre is to support people who have fewer opportunities and to encourage them to take responsibility for their own lives.



## A BIT TO KNOW ABOUT SOLIDARITÉS JEUNESSES

Leaning on the resources of the associative regions, Solidarités Jeunesses has developed an action for and together with young people.

The aim is to break down the barriers between the generations and promote active solidarity by using international workcamps and places of intercultural exchange.

Solidarités Jeunesses is a movement of Popular Education, which gathers different associations.

These associations organize short and long term volunteering projects, inclusion activities, different training programs, actions promoting international solidarity and they also run rural centres hosting people and contributing to local development.





## OUR PROJECT



One of the most important part at the centre is to simply participate in the everyday exchange that occurs when people from different social and cultural backgrounds live together.

There are about 20 people who live and work at the centre, and 10 more adults in social reinsertion who come to work during the day.

The centre hosts teenagers who are facing social and professional problems, who often have difficulties functioning in society and perhaps do not have support from their family. The exchange between the volunteers and those living at the centre is extremely important, and together we focus our efforts to realise specific projects around the centre and in neighbouring villages.



Throughout the year we also organise different social and cultural events, such as concerts, theatrical productions, workshops, international dinners, group hosting and the like. This project requires no specific knowledge or skills.

You do not have to be able to speak French to come but it is important to be aware that not everybody living here can speak English. As a consequence, it's important that you make an effort to learn it while you're here to make a link with people. Plus, there is the opportunity to have French lessons while you are here.



# WHAT KIND OF WORK DO WE DO?

We work approximately 7 hours per day. Sometimes we are based in the house, but most of the time we work outside the house.

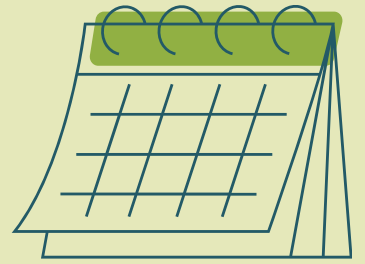


The missions in the center are:

- Renovation of the local heritage (fountains, ancient wash-houses, painting flats etc.)
- Renovation of the centre (masonry, carpentry, etc.)
- Gardening (planting, watering, composting, etc.)
- Collective kitchen (daily cooking, planning the menu)
- hosting groups (logistics of the welcoming, preparing workshops)
- Support in the office's administrative and logistic work



# OUR DAY



8:30 first meeting to organise the daily cleaning

till 9 collective cleaning

9:00 start of the work (kitchen, renovation, gardening)

10:30 morning break

12:30 -12:30 lunch

16:30 end of the work



# ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE LIFE

Our house is very big! Volunteers and residents (teenagers, groups, etc.) live together in one part of the house. The staff and their family live in another section, but we all eat and socialise together.

It is important for volunteers to take part in the communal life and to try to get to know the other people in the house because we live together as one group.

The volunteers share their bedrooms with teenagers and usually another volunteer; there are 2 or 3 people in one bedroom. The rooms are mixed gender so male and female can share the same room. As stated above, the daily intercultural exchange is a great way to achieve some of the goals of the project. The lives of both the volunteers and the teenagers are enriched as they confront their similarities and differences, and this produces some very powerful moments.





Once a week everybody participates in a meeting in which we discuss how we feel about our week and plan for the week ahead.

When needed there is a separate meeting only for the volunteers in which we discuss anything you would like to raise.

These meetings are together with Cristina, who is responsible for the volunteers in general, that concerns the welfare of the volunteers but also everything regarding the work that they do here.



# RULES OF THE HOUSE

To imagine, it can be a little difficult to get things running smoothly when you are living with 25 other people.

To make things easier and more comfortable for everyone, there are a few rules that must be respected at the centre.

1. no alcohol at the centre (With the exception of organised special occasions)
2. don't use your phone frequently in the house (of course you can use it if you need) → There is also a fixed phone that is available for the volunteers and internet is provided so that you can stay connected with your family and friends
3. we expect all those who live at the centre to respect night time quiet hours.
4. wifi connection is scheduled from 16h30 till 23h00 (weekend from 8h30 till 23h00)





# VOLUNTEERS - AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE PROJECT

The Centre de Beaumotte has been hosting medium and long term volunteers for the past 35 years, and all of them have left their mark.

At any given time the centre hosts 8 international volunteers. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to live a unique life experience, to be a positive influence in the lives of those at the centre, to learn French and discover the culture here. You will work at times with local youths on projects in the surrounding areas.

During your time here, you will also have the opportunity to lead one or two Solidarités Jeunesses' international workcamps and to participate in events such as training seminars and general assemblies.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We host international volunteers for several reasons:

- To provide an intercultural exchange and dimension to all of our projects.
- To enrich the learning process of the participants by mixing different people.
- To stimulate local development by working in collaboration with the community and local associations.
- To give young French people the opportunity to be confronted with new ideas and cultures, and to allow the same for the volunteers.





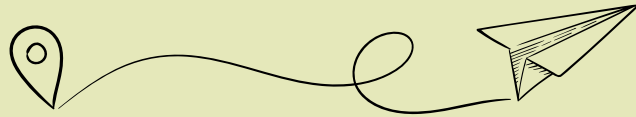


## ACTIVITIES

People who live in the house can organise activities for the night – it is important to decide all together and try to include every one. There is always a «permanent» → one staff of the office, who are responsible for the minors and stay with the volunteers to share the collective life

every two weeks the volunteers and teenagers are able to visit the nearest towns, cultural events, concerts.

The association will propose two big trips to visit some places that are located farther.



## EVENTS

Beaumotte is an Association that welcomes a lot of people, especially at events like an international dinner or festivities like « la fête de la pomme » « chasse aux oeufs » or « la fête du sapin ».

Also in christmas Beaumotte hostes a lot of people and organise christmas dinners. On this time of the year Beaumotte is the only delegation that remains open and continues to host volunteers - which is why volunteers from the other delegations often come over Christmas.





## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT



The centre is located in a small, rural village where there is not much social activity. This, however, does not mean the volunteers will be either lonely or bored! At any given time there are around 30 people in the centre, with many more passing through.

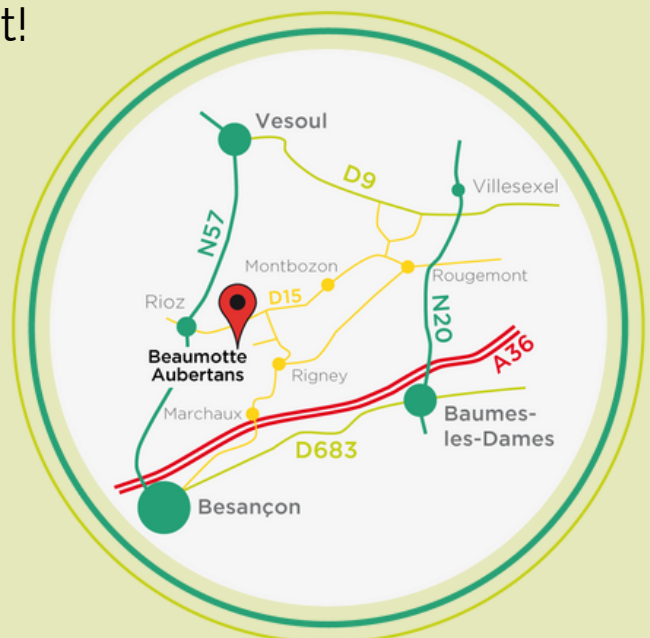
## GEOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT



The Franche-Comté is a beautiful region well known for its wines, sausages and cheeses.

The centre is surrounded by nature and we have a big garden around the house. It is located on the edge of a river in the village of Beaumotte (pop. 380), in the countryside of the Haute-Saône. The nearest large towns are Vesoul (25km) and Besançon (30km), though the small town of Rioz is only 12km away.

It is important to know that there are no bus stations in the village of Beaumotte Aubertans, so for all the activities outside Beaumotte we will need a car from association, it means that collectively we have to organize it!





# WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME?

There are several things you should not forget when coming to the Centre de Beaumotte such as:

- Good working-shoes
- Working-gloves
- Rain clothes
- Some warm clothes
- Working clothes
- Musical instruments (if you play one)
- Games
- Recipes (take your favorite recipe with you and make it discover by the volunteers and the team!)
- Photos and postcards of your region (so that you can show to the others where you're living!)



# HOW TO ARRIVE TO THE CENTRE DE BEAUMOTTE?

By train:

- If you arrive by train, the meeting-point is the train station at Vesoul or
- Besançon Franche Comté for that if you arrive in Paris you have 2 options :

TGV PARIS GARE DE L'EST -> VESOUL (last train from Paris at 18h41)

PARIS GARE DE LYON -> BESANCON (Viotte or Mouillère)

Important : Check the timetables on [www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

By car: If you arrive by car or hitchhiking, the meeting point is the center of Beaumotte.

