

# Vaunières

Villages des Jeunes





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## Introduction of Association

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## Solidarités Jeunesses

Until 2009, SJ (Solidarités Jeunesses) was the French branch of the international movement –Youth Action for Peace (AJP). It was established in 1923 after the First World War by French and German Protestants. AJP was the beginning of a movement for overcoming the international border, culture for peace.

These days, in the model of the original movement, SJ has gathered young people and adults for project and social engagement. Their expectation is to determine their dynamic and helpful. Solidarités Jeunesses consists of 7 regional delegations and 1 partner association.



## Solidarités Jeunesses

### ***Our objective act :***

- For active and responsible citizenship.
- Against the exclusion of those with disadvantages
- For a local development concerned by the person, the environment and cultural heritage.
- For a breakdown of boundaries between generations, cultures, nations.
- For a concrete construction of the Peace.

### **Solidarités Jeunesses consists of:**

- 7 regional delegations
- 1 national network
- 1 association partner



## Association Les Villages des Jeunes

Les Villages des Jeunes is a regional branch of Solidarités Jeunes and was created in 1963. The aim is to break the social, cultural and intergenerational barriers through a collective life, workshops and construction site.

The goal of Villages des Jeunes is to give new energy to extremely rural places by allowing French and international volunteers, employees, young people, to live and work together on these places.

In AVJ, there are two villages which are 2 hosting places: La ferme du Fai and Le hameau de Vaunières. These places allow intercultural sharing and a life close to nature in the mountains (Hautes Alpes).



## Vaunières

Vaunières is one of the hosting place of Villages des Jeunes. It's located in the low alps and is nestled in the heart of mountains. Most of the houses date back to the 17th century, at a time when pastoral activities were thriving. Since the 1950's, all the families had to left the countryside in search of better paying jobs. In 1960's, Villages des Jeunes has bought the hamlet of Vaunières to start their project. Step by step, they began to host local and international persons, groups, to bring life in the hamlet.

Currently, there are a several buildings such as l'Hôtellerie and l'Auberge which are for hosting groupes and les "Trois Roues" which is the house of Volunteers, bénévoles, individual hosting and the office of the staff. Also we have party room, a woodshop, a greenhouse, a garden, a tavern, etc.





## People

- 1) Volunteers
- 2) Salary team
- 3) Resident
- 4) Permanent staff



## Volunteers

There are two broad types of volunteers. Long-term volunteers who stay for 6-12 months (European Voluntary Service, Civic Service, International volunteers) and short-term volunteers who stay for 1-2 months. They are living in the same building, sharing rooms and following collective life and rules. The volunteers are from different nationalities and primarily use English and French. Usually there are maximum 8 long-term volunteers.



## Including salary team

There is an including salary team which comes to Vaunières to work 4 days per week. They typically live in villages near Vaunières and are having difficulties in finding work. Our project give them a job with a contract and opportunities to resume trainings.

They are adults between 20 and 55 years old. They work with us between 6 months and one year.

The team is between 4 and 6 people.



## Resident

There are not only volunteers and permanent staff but also some **residents** are living in Vaunières. There are hosted individually or in a group. Most individual hosting is for **teenager** who stay for short term (a week or so) or long term (more than several months) under the "**Maison Tremplin**" project. Those teenagers are living in the same building (Trois Roues) that the volunteers and sharing the collective life with them.

Otherwise the hosting **groups** are spending a few days to a month, staying at the other buildings such as l'Hôtellerie or l'Auberge. A group is teenagers or adults which are coming with an educator, facilitator or social worker.

Also, we hosted some "**bénévoles**" which are coming to help and support the project. They are working like volunteers but are not under a contract. They stay between one and three week and give us a contribution for food and stay.



## Permanent Staff

Currently, four permanent staff are employed in Vaunières. Each permanent is in charge of a different aspect of the project:

- 📁 Technical leader
- 📁 Volunteering/International project & food,
- 📁 Coordinating team and hosting group
- 📁 Coordinating social part of the project (Maison Tremplin) and including team.

They inhabit Vaunières year round in their own flat.



## Projects in Vaunières

- 1) "Maison Tremplin"
- 2) Hosting group
- 3) Workshop/personal project
- 4) Food
- 5) International Work camp
- 6) Cultural Event
- 7) Summer season



## Projects in Vaunières

The main goals of the Project are to meet one another, to create a constructive dynamic, as well to break stereotypes, and stigmas by working together and living collectively. Incline to "Education Populaire" which believes that everyone can teach and learn each other without formal educational ways. All the project in Vaunières is corresponding to below goals.



## Maison Tremplin

“Maison Tremplin” can be translated as “Jumping House”. Maison Tremplin project provides a stepping stone to people who are having difficulties integrating into society, single-moms, teenagers, immigrant families, etc. The most common people we host are teenagers who lack direction in his/her life or teenagers with social, familial or psychological difficulties.

These people often just need time and a place for themselves. According to the description, Vaunières is trying to offer them time to think about their future, personal space and encourage them to participate in the workshops and help them to find balance in their lives. Depending on their needs and conditions, they could stay for a short term break or to develop themselves long term. With these tools, they could be better prepared for the jump back into society and work towards a better life.





## Hosting group

Part of the job in Vaunières is to host. We have 65 places for hosting groups (adults, disabled peoples, teenagers, children) anywhere from a day to a month. We host various type of group!

Usually social group are coming to live an experience with us. They work and share the collective life with us.

The team of long-term volunteers is here to welcome them, explained them the project, propose to them some activities or just sharing time together. Groups are really interested by the internationality of our project and they are coming to meet volunteers also!

It could happen we rent the village for one week end for a giant roleplay, a wedding, etc.



## Workshop/personal project

All work is in accordance with the aim of Vaunières. Hence, each workshop makes village alive and build the project. Every resident is involved everyday in workshop : cooking, landscaping, project planning construction, garden, beer, chickens, cleaning, renovation etc. We decide as much as possible together what we have to do (by a technical meeting) and also we manage the collective life together and solve the problems (if there is) together in meeting.

An example of a typical weekly schedule in Vaunières:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 8.30- 13.00	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop
Afternoon 14.30-16.30	Workshop	Workshop	Technical coffee (meeting)	Coffee House & volunteer meeting	Free Time



## Workshop/personal project

Every morning, We have workshop like construction, gardening, cooking, cutting and splitting firewood and taking care of the chickens. It varies slightly day by day, but in the afternoon we continue to work. On Wednesday and Thursday we have meetings with permanent staff to talk about future workshops and collective life.

Long term volunteers can choose to have a personal project depending on what you want to learn, what you are interested in or what you can contribute. The village is open to improvements of all types. Anything is possible. We hope that your personal project advances the values of Vaunières. We welcome new ideas.



## Food

We manage all aspects of the menu in house, cooking is one of daily workshops. Hence, everyone is involved at least a little bit in cooking and creating the menu. We organize "café menu" time that each resident can propose menu items for the upcoming week. You are encouraged to cook meals from your country or region!

We try to consume as many local vegetables and fruits as possible. According to the reflection of ideal life of the association, we try to eat better: less meat, local and seasonal ingredients (meat, vegetables, fruits) and we try to buy as much we can organic food.

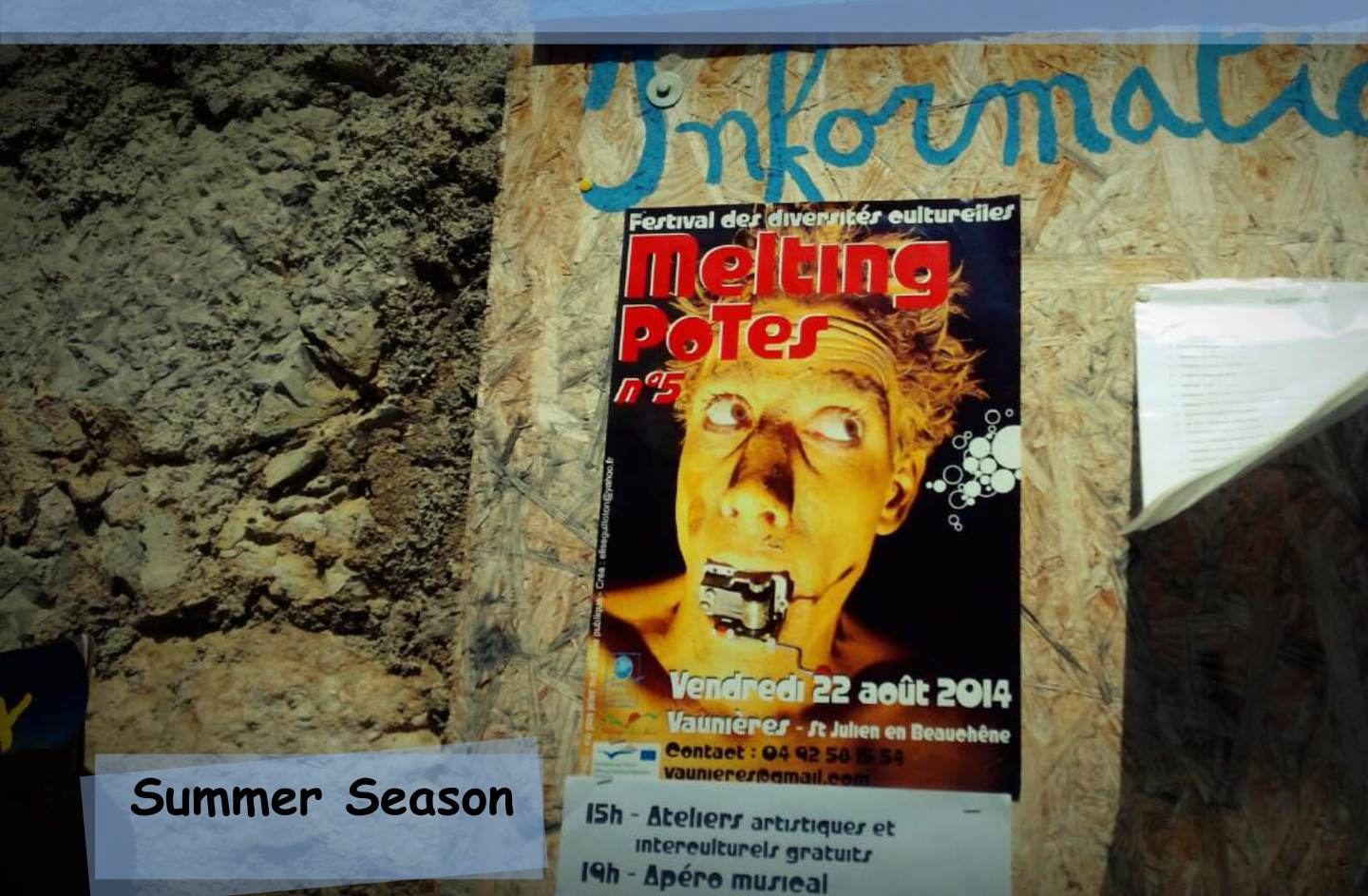
Also we like to do homemade jam with what we picked in Vaunières (raspberry, plum, etc).

And of course, we eat what is coming from our garden: salad, cabbage, tomato, etc.



## International Workcamp

We host international workcamp from spring to the end of summer. These camps normally consist of 6-8 international volunteers and 6-8 French people. It could be camp for adult or for teenager. During 2 or 3 weeks, they work together in one specifically project (isolating wall, building wood house, etc.), share collective life and live under tents. They have to build their own organization with their workcamp leader and with the technical leader. The long term volunteers of Vaunières are usually the workcamp leader of these international workcamp. It's one of their missions.



## Summer Season

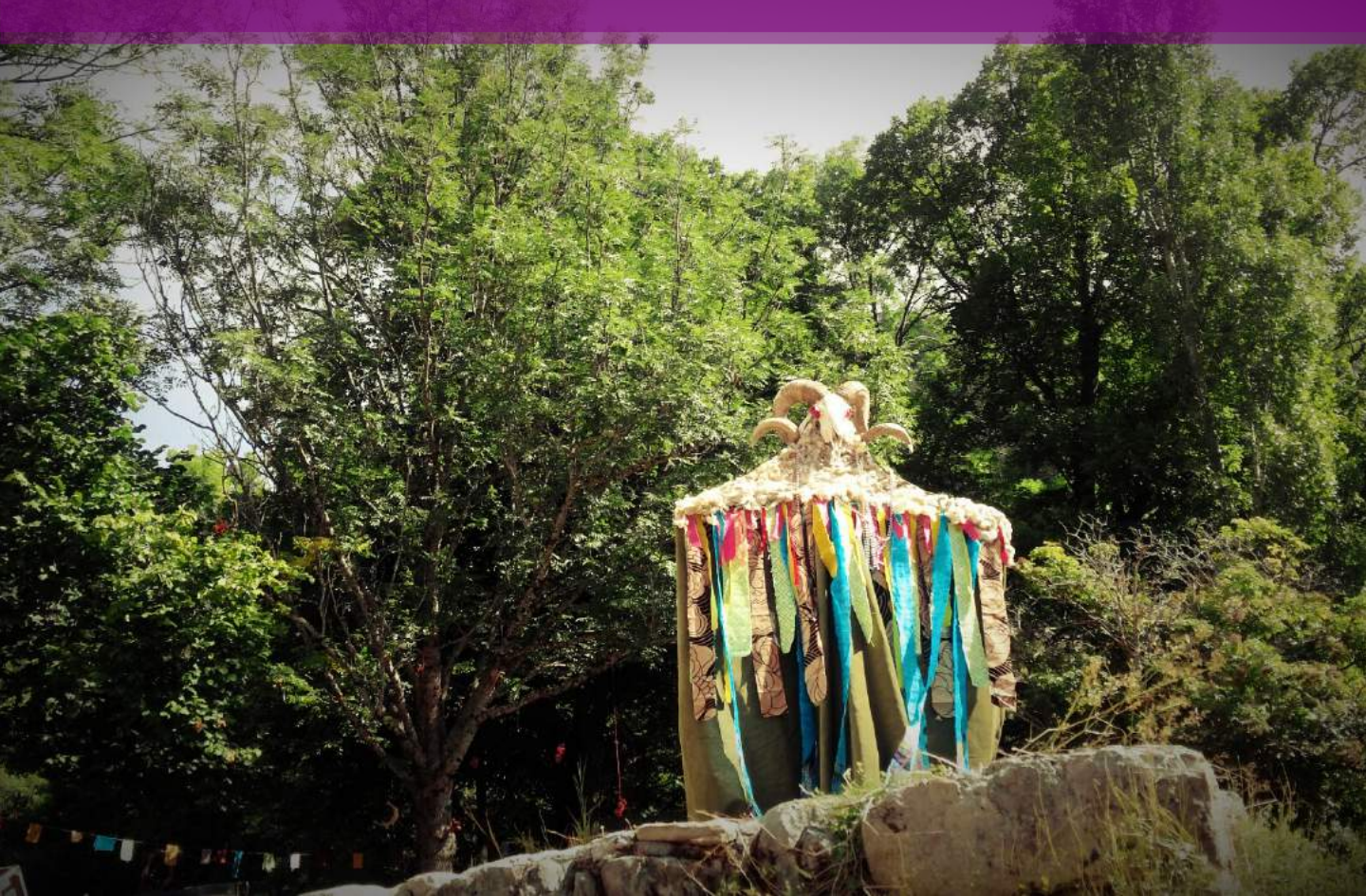
During summer season, you can meet many people in Vaunières. Some of them are from the international workcamp and the others are from hosting groups. All group people and inhabitants are encouraged to mingle and get to know each other. We organize a special schedule for July and August. For example, we have barbecue evening, pizza night and we open tavern several night (it's our bar). You are welcome to create your own special themed night.

It's the best time of the year, between 60 and 100 persons are there from all over the world!



## Cultural Events

Big and small cultural events have happened in Vaunières. We would propose cultural events like international nights, game nights, movie night etc. During summer, we organize our own festival as well, we invite local bands, decorating the village. These projects are managed entirely in house. Adding, we organize international night with meals and dessert from other countries. We encourage you to bring some traditional recipes as well special sauce or condiment from your country to introduce and share with other people.



## Information

- 1) Airport
- 2) Train
- 3) Contact





## Airport



Vaunières is close to Grenoble and Gap.

You could arrive at the airport in Paris. Then you must take the train to Grenoble. Once in Grenoble, take the southbound train to Gap (direction to Gap or Valence) and get off at the station "Lus la Croix-haute". Or, We can suggest other airports as Geneva, Lyon, Grenoble and Marseille. It takes less time than coming from Paris



## Train

The nearest train is "Lus La Croix-Haute". You can check more information about train by visiting to website :

<http://www.sncf.com/>

Also the second train station closer is Veynes-Dévoluy. Usually, we ask people to arrive in Lus La Croix Haute train station and then we pick up them directly there with our van.

Also if you take bus from your country, there are big international bus station in Lyon and Grenoble.

And if you arrive by car, our exact adress is: Villages des Jeunes, Hameau de Vaunières, 05140 Saint-Julien-en-Beauchêne.



## Contact

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## Messages from volunteers

"Since I began to do volunteer in Vaunières, I had discovered French cultures by meeting French people, visiting to some places and French cook. Especially I could meet French social warfare part by hosting teenagers who are 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of immigrant family and educators here. It was interesting for me to see another aspect of French society. I am sure that without this experience, I never found and thought about it. Adding, I'd like to recommend to studying some French before arrival. Knowing some French expressions, words were absolutely helpful to explore France."

Chan-Ok (Long term Volunteer from april to december 2014)

« Ça a été pour moi une expérience enrichissante que d'imaginer en collaboration avec les autres ce jardin participatif, et de lui donner sa forme lors de chantiers où beaucoup de monde s'y est penché..  
Donnant son coup de pelle et de pioche, chacun a permis d'agrandir des terrasses, de créer des buttes cultivables et des chemins semés de trèfle ».

Guilhem

(volontaire long terme de septembre 2012 à septembre 2013)

« Vaunières, je l'ai découvert l'hiver et je me souviens de cette ambiance indescriptible et féerique des montagnes enneigées, du temps qui semble s'être arrêté mais aussi de ces heures passées à improviser en cuisine, de ces rencontres inoubliables et de tous ces moments forts qui m'ont fait grandir.

Julie (volontaire long terme de novembre 2013 à avril 2014)



« I can say that my year here was amazing experience! Yeah, sometimes it was hard but what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger! In general it was really great year! Full of adventures, new experiences, great and inspiring people. Im' sure one day i'll come back to this place to see is there any change in village, how goes on collective life!».

Solveiga

(Long term volunteer from Latvia september 2014 to september 2015)

