

Somerset DofE Gold residential – Charterhouse Residential 2024 Information and kit list



Introduction

Thank you for signing up/ enquiring about for our Gold Residential at Charterhouse, Somerset

The Charterhouse Centre

Charterhouse is a beautiful building on the Mendips in Somerset, BS40 7XR. We are part of Somerset Council – Support Services for Education and run residentials for all age groups over the year. Alongside various day events. The residential will be held at Charterhouse and use the fantastic facilities and local area during the week.

Arrival

Arrival time is 12pm on Monday 28th October 2024. We will provide lunch on arrival and have a series of introduction and getting-to-know-you sessions planned, to ensure that the group gels from day one.

Departure

Departure time is 3pm on Friday 1st November 2024,

Cost

The residential costs £280 per person

Payment

Full payment is due at the time of booking to secure a place on the residential. Places are booked and paid for through the SSE Outdoors website [Holiday Camps \(sseoutdoors.co.uk\)](https://www.sseoutdoors.co.uk)

Transport

Anyone wishing to come by train – we will provide pick up at Yatton Station at 11.30am on 28th October. And a return to Yatton station by 3.30pm on 1st November.

Accommodation

You will stay indoors in our internal accommodation, sharing with others on the residential (age and genders will be split for safeguarding). The accommodation will be just use for the residential, and there are areas to chill and relax, anyone needing to study of an evening, will have time and space for this whilst onsite

Shower and toilets are onsite

There is the opportunity to charge mobile phones and other devices on site – but you'll be too busy to worry about this!

We will provide bedding for you

Food

We will provide all meals, snacks and drinks through the week. There is a choice every day and you are guaranteed to be well fed. We can cater for all food intolerances – you just need to let us know. We are a nut free site.

You don't need to bring additional food with you, although if you're a budding Star Baker and want to dazzle us with your brilliance, we won't say no!

Footwear

Charterhouse is fairly flat and level, but it is mainly grass so will be affected by the weather; please think about this when deciding what to bring.

You will be stood up for long periods, will probably walk quite a distance without realising it! Sturdy, comfortable shoes or trainers will therefore be required during the day (walking boots are ideal if you have them).

You will definitely be doing sports / adventurous activities, so casual / sports kit is ideal with trainers

Flip flops/slippers are good for 'down time' and to wear indoors at the centre as outdoor shoes will get muddy!

What to consider bringing

We will be outside most of the day, whatever the weather, so clothing should be lightweight and covering if its sunny, waterproof if it's wet and warm if it's cold. Keep an eye on the weather forecast!

Charterhouse is a family venue so please don't bring items of clothing that are see-through or have offensive slogans, just in case they have visitors.

Please avoid jeans, especially if wet weather is forecast. Hopefully the sun will be shining but clothes for all eventualities are better – so layers are perfect

You will be working be volunteering with the Mendip AONB team on one day – so please wear clothes that can get dirty etc. As we'd hate you to ruin a decent item of clothing! Hiking boots are ideal footwear for the volunteering activity and trainers around site.

We will do some water-based activities– please bring appropriate clothing for this, as you may get wet!!! If you have a wetsuit, feel free to bring it, but don't worry if not. Also, old shoes that can get wet are also ideal.

Money

We don't recommend carrying large amounts of cash and as you are going to be fed onsite- you shouldn't need any additional money.

Activities

You will be involved in volunteering activities and also a number of different adventurous activities from climbing to abseiling and gorge walking to caving. So, it will be an active and busy week for all involved – including our fantastic SSE Outdoors staff

Supervision

There will be SSE Outdoors staff onsite to support you 24/7. They are used to working with all age groups of visitors and are guaranteed to ensure that you have fun whilst with us

What you will be doing

You will be doing adventurous activities on and off site through the week – please see the draft plan for an idea as to how the day will look. It is very flexible, and we can amend due to weather conditions . You will also visit Mendips AONB on the Wednesday, where we will volunteer with their staff for half the day. There will also be evening activities each night from campfire to night walk and games nights.

Kit list – please bring with you

Utensils

Re-fillable water bottle

Footwear

Sturdy shoes or trainers

Old pair of trainers to get wet during water-based activities

Flip flops or slippers – for indoor use

Trainers or casual shoes

Walking boots/shoes a must for many activities

Clothing

Waterproof coat

Waterproof trousers

Fleece or hoodie (more than one if forecast is cold)

3 or 4 t-shirts/tops

2 or 3 pairs of shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms (depending on weather forecast)

Sleepwear

Underwear

Socks

Items to wear for water sports (wetsuit if you have one and want to bring)

Layers are good and clothes you don't mind getting wet / muddy!

Other items

Sun Hat / woolly hat

Toiletries, wipes etc

Sanitary products

Towel (microfibre or easy dry preferred) X2 – one for showering and other in case of outdoor water activities!

Phone charger

eDofE number ready for the assessor

Day bag (small rucksack) for carrying valuable items, extra clothing etc

Torch and batteries

Wetsuit if you have one



DRAFT – subject to change

Monday 28th October 2024	
AM	DofE team / SSE Outdoors on site setting up
12 pm	Participants arrive
12pm to 2.30pm	Initial briefing re H&S/ and room allocation. Sandwich lunch provided. Week plan outline and discussion
2.30 to 5.00	Group Challenges – Team Building, getting to know one another
Evening	Free time, food Organised activity – Night Orienteering
Tuesday 29th October	
8.30 am	Breakfast
9.30 – 13.00	Adventurous Activities - Climbing
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	Adventurous Activities - Abseiling
Evening	Food and free time Organised activity – Games Night
Wednesday 30th October	
8.30am	Breakfast
9.30 – 12.00	Mendip AONB – volunteering with the rangers
	Lunch – Packed Lunch
2.00 – 5.00	Adventurous Activities - Caving
Evening	Food and free time Organised activity – TBC
Thursday 31st October	
8.30am	Breakfast
9.30 – 13.00	Adventurous Activities - Water Sports

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 17.00	Adventurous activities – Gorge Walking
Evening	Food and free time Campfire at Firepit – campcraft
Friday 1st November	
8.30am	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00	Clear Bedrooms
10 – 13.00	Activities – Orienteering Challenge
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14:00- 15:00	Group get together – week de brief, feedback forms
15:00	Leave / Pick up by parent, carer, guardian, drop to station

The groups will be split in to two on Tue / Wed and Thurs – with half doing the morning activity and half doing the afternoon activity – then swapping after lunch.

We will be visiting The Mendip AONB Team – to do some onsite volunteering with the team that look after the area. [Visit Mendip Hills AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#)

Adventurous Activities such as Caving, Gorge Walking Climbing, Abseiling, water sports will be organised for the group, please take a look at the SSE website for more information about what is on offer at Charterhouse - [The Charterhouse Centre \(sseoutdoors.co.uk\)](#)

Evenings – group activities – from campfire to night walk and a games night

Fun and active week for all involved – instructors and Young People alike. Open to ideas and very flexible to accommodate requests, there is a lot to offer onsite and we will do our best to accommodate all activities and requests whilst working with the group through the week.



