



# YHA School Trips

Discover Education outside the classroom

## Information for Parents



Visit: [www.yhaschooltrips.org.uk](http://www.yhaschooltrips.org.uk) or phone 01629 592 700



# YHA School Trips

## Discover Education outside the classroom

YHA aims to help children to get the very best out of their school trips. YHA School Trips have been devised by drawing upon more than 75 years experience of providing young people with budget accommodation in a network of centres throughout England and Wales. Our courses provide fun-filled adventures that boost confidence, enhance team-building skills and meet the demands of the National Curriculum.

### Benefits of school trips

YHA School Trips offer children the opportunity to experience challenges and activities that go beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Through a range of National Curriculum-linked courses young people broaden their horizons as they learn new skills, try new activities, improve their ability to work as part of a team and conquer their fears, in a fun and safe environment.

Staying away from home enables young people to spend time in a different environment and opens up a variety of new learning opportunities, which cannot be accessed at home or from a day trip. A residential experience sends pupils back to school with a new sense of confidence, self-awareness and an increased willingness to try new experiences.

### About YHA centres

From farm cottages and Victorian mansions to modern purpose built venues, no two centres are the same. Our accommodation reflects the distinctive character of each location and typically you can expect; large communal rooms, comfortable, clean bedrooms, large dining rooms, leader rooms, classrooms and meeting rooms.

Many sites offer great facilities to keep pupils occupied, including TV lounges and games rooms with pool tables, arcade games and table football.



## **Sleeping arrangements**

Most bedrooms are fitted with bunk beds and some smaller rooms have en suite facilities. Groups are allocated dedicated bedrooms and will not be expected to share with any other groups. If a group comprises adults and under 18's, the group leaders, and any other accompanying adults, will be allocated separate rooms from the children.

Duvets, pillows and bed lined will be provided but children will need to remember to bring their own towels.

## **Meals**

We are passionate about the meals we produce and that's why all our food is prepared using fresh, seasonal ingredients, sourced locally where available, prepared and cooked to order. We offer flexible meal times to fit in with group itineraries and with prior notice, we are happy to cater for any special dietary requests.

## **Funding**

YHA helps to fund places for financially disadvantaged children on a residential with YHA (England & Wales), so no one is left behind.

YHA believes every young person should have the opportunity to travel to a new place, to discover an environment that is quite different to their home, and experience the exhilaration of outdoor activities.

We believe poverty should not be a barrier to travel. Last year, through the generous support of our partners, YHA enabled nearly 3,000 disadvantaged young people throughout England and Wales to enjoy a residential activity break at YHA hostels.

YHA contributes up to 50% of the cost for children from low-income households on trips with school or other youth groups, so that no one is left behind. For more information please speak to your School Trips organiser.

*YHA is grateful to its members as well as independent trusts and donors for funding assistance, which enables young people to experience a residential with their friends and classmates.*



## Safety and Security

The welfare of your child is our prime concern and we invest heavily in our duty of care. In accordance with our safety and security statement, YHA will:

- Take reasonable precaution to ensure the safety of the group.
- Ensure all staff are properly trained.
- Ensure a member of staff is always available.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure no unauthorised access to our centres.
- Ensure staff wear ID badges or uniforms at all times.
- Provide emergency access to a telephone.
- Allocate dedicated bedrooms to the group.
- Assist in providing Risk Assessments.
- Ensure all criminal record and related checks are made on staff working at YHA.

**Please note:** YHA staff cannot act 'in loco parentis', responsibility for the group rests with the group leader.

## What to bring

The group leader should provide a complete list of everything that is required for the trip. However, a suggested kit list is also available upon request from our centres. Many centres have drying rooms so any wet clothes can soon be dried. All bedding is provided, but a towel will need to be packed.

We recommend that children do not bring anything that they would not want to get dirty, broken or lost. Therefore, items such as mobile phones, watches, jewellery etc should be left at home. We cannot take responsibility for damage to or the loss of any personal property.

## Contacting your child

Your group will have its own policy with regards to contacting your child. However, payphones are available to call home should your child wish.