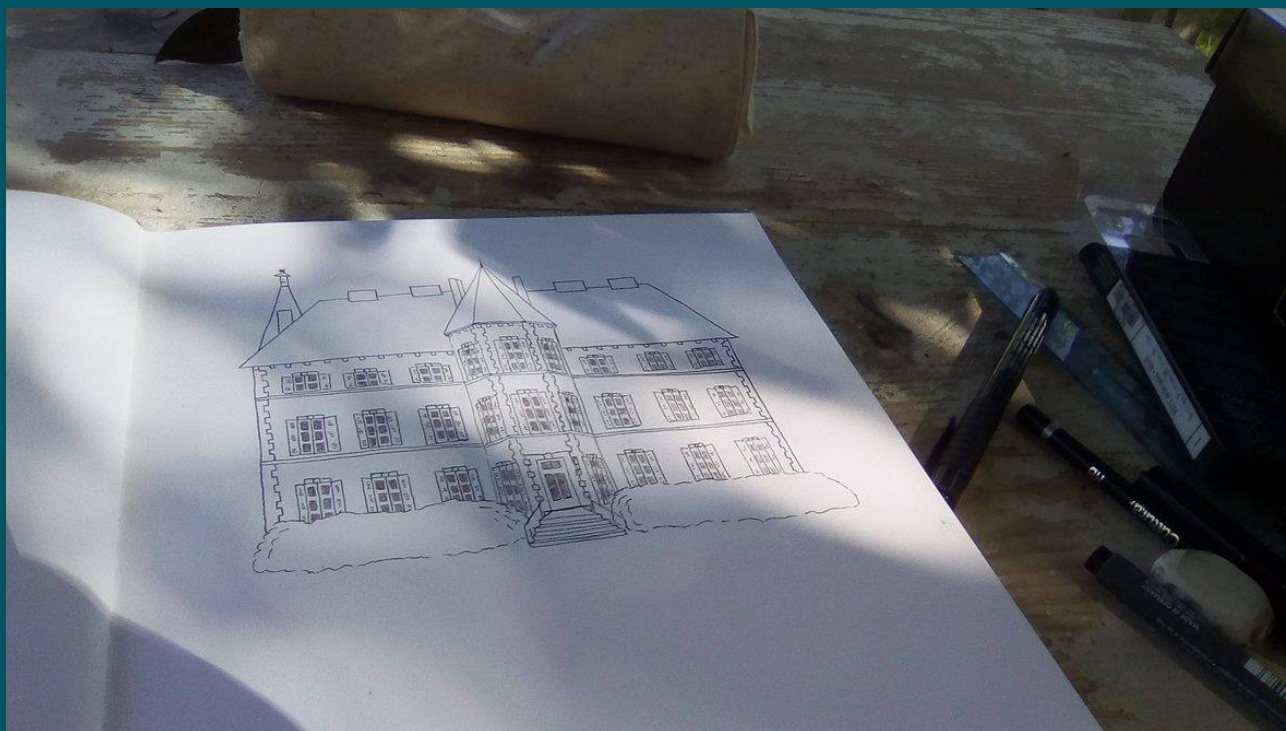


# INFOSHEET - Le Créneau



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# Solidarités Jeunes

## Who are we?

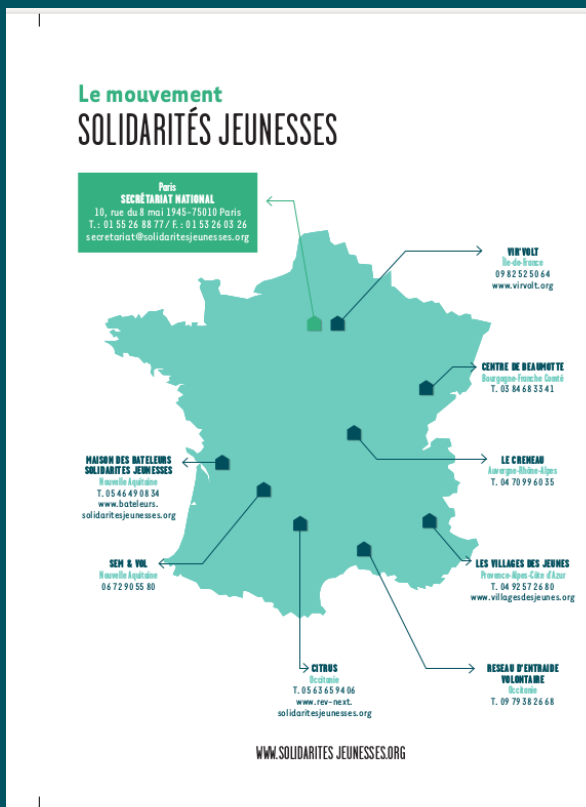
**Solidarités Jeunes** is an organisation that works for **non-formal education**. It runs a number of small community centres in rural environments and organises short and long-term international workcamps, social integration projects, training programmes and actions for international solidarity.

The two main aims are:

- to gather people ( young and adult) from different culture and social background to participate in social, ecological and cultural development on the local level.
- To contribute to the integration of people with fewer opportunities.

We believe that cultural exchanges are a key for personal development which truly happens when people are living and working together. Our varied activities are created to reach these aims.

**Do you know it ?** The first workcamps were organized after the First World War, in Verdun region, in France. Several citizens- volunteers, from former opposed countries, decided to join their forces and wills in order to work together on Peace construction in the interest of the communities.



Solidarités Jeunes consists of:

- 8 regional delegations
- 1 national network

## Le créneau



The **castle** was built in 1873 by Felix Meilheurat des Prureaux, His descendent, Mrs Monin the actual owner has rented the castle to the association for 99 years from 1993. Since that time Le Creneau has renovated and maintained the castle site as an **international meeting and hosting center** thanks to the collective work of the permanent staff, the international volunteers and the local population. It's located in Montcombroux Vieux Bourg in the Allier department, Auvergne region in the **center of France**.

The site includes a main house, the two small towers, a farmyard, a vegetable garden, some other workshops and it is surrounded by the forest. It's a **very isolated place**, situated 6km from the "bigger" village with shops

If the Castle is an unbelievable place, it is above all an amazing tool to experiment any kind of workshops and activities, and to live together as a community. This pedagogical tool is a great context for international work camp where volunteers can feel like home and experience their autonomy.

**Welcome at home !**





## Peoples

### 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.

**Volunteering is an exchange, a meeting**, between one person who wishes to offer his/her time, energy, views to a general interest project. It is also an intercultural ground of learning (apprenticeship), experiments and personal construction. At SJ, volunteering does not mean humanitarian action because we do not deal with emergency. Voluntary service exists almost everywhere around the world and it is a commitment which can be really different regarding countries, cultures, fields, etc. It gathers different types of persons and entities, local associations, men, women, local authorities and private entities. **Volunteering is above all a personal commitment, which invites you to a deep discovery.**

### Permanent Staff

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

- Technical leader
- Volunteering/International project & food,
- Coordinating team and International workcamp
- Coordinating social part of the project

They inhabit Le crenau year round in their own flat.



### Youngs



Individual hosting is for teenager who stay for short term (a week or so) or long term (more than several months) Those teenagers are living in the same building (Maison du domaine) that the volunteers and sharing the collective life with them.



## Project in Le crenau



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 Le Créneau is corresponding to below goals.

### Hosting Youngs

This 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, Le créneau 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 Groups

On summer time, 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!

## Work and Schedules



You will work about 35 hours per week, the work is varied and you will get the support of the staff.

We work on :

- Renovation of the buildings
- Gardening
- Reforestation and forest upkeep
- Organization and participation in cultural events (in the castle and outside)
- Organization and participation in workshops and meetings
- Organization and participation on the collective life (cooking, cleaning...)
- Hosting groups and individuals (mostly in the summer)
- Leading workcamps during the summer

## Kitchen

You will be in the kitchen a least once a week. At the beginning, you will have the support from another volunteer and the cooking referent, who will explain all the tasks that the kitchen team (or person) has to do, how we organize the menu, and the quantities for cooking, etc.

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





## Volunteer projet

You have the opportunity to develop a volunteer project link to the projet which respects the aims of the association, it can be social, cultural, environmental, etc...if you have some ideas everything is possible.



## Collective Life

Collective life is the essence of the project. During your time volunteering here, there are around 8 volunteers and 4 paid-workers who all live together. Everybody is involved in the collective life : Cooking, eating, cleaning, socializing, living in peace and harmony.

## International workcamp



We host international workcamp in summer. These camps normally consist of 12 international and French volunteers. 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 workcampleader of these international workcamp. It's one of their missions.

## Local events

Once a month we organize International meal, or "Cine-soupe" inside the castle.

We have also some local partners : Social centre, Foyer d'Accueil Médicalisé ( institution for disable person ) , Associative Coffe, This partnership permit to have link with the local environnement and to develop different actions on our territory.



## Practical aspect :

### Accommodation



You will be hosted in a house, on site, near the castle, where we can host 15 people. In the house, there are 4 bedrooms (from 3 until 6 beds), 1 bathroom with shower, 1 toilet and a saloon, You can use a washing machine (in the castle) with organic soap.

### To bring with you :

- clothes for manual work
- good shoes to work outside
- sleeping bag
- warm clothes (nights can be fresh!) and ny confused seasons
- toilet bag
- clothes for your period of volunteering





## How to come here ?

By **Plane** : You can land in

### - **Lyon-Airport Saint Exupéry**

From Lyon-Airport Saint Exupéry to the railway station (Lyon Part Dieu). Take a Tram Express, the departure is at Lyon Saint Exupéry station, we can buy the ticket by internet ( <https://www.rhonexpress.fr/>) or in the station, Costs: 14€70 (internet), It is more expensive if you buy the ticket in the station You ask for a « Aller Simple 12-25 ans »

Then you can take a train at Lyon Part Dieu station to **Vichy** or **Saint Germain des Fossés**

### - **Paris-**

From Airport in Paris you should Join the Railway station Paris – Bercy with the following step :

- **Airport Charles de Gaulles (Roissy)**: Take the RER B direction Saint-Remy-les-Chevreuse to the station Chatelet-Les Halles. Stop to Chatelet-les halles take the metro 14 direction Olympiades and stop at he station **Bercy**. (time: around one hour) Costs : 1 ticket = 1€90

- **Orly's Airport**: Take the metro at Orly Ouest or Orly sud station to Antony and then take the RER B (direction Aéroport Charles de Gaulle 2 TGV) to the station Denfert-Rochereau. Stop to Denfert-Rochereau and take the metro 6 direction Nation and stop at the station **Bercy**. (time: around one hour)  
Costs : 1 ticket = 1€90

Then you can take a train from Paris Bercy to Moulins sur Allier

The cost of the travel ticket from Paris to Moulins-sur-Allier is around 45 Euros.

The cost is different if you take it during the rush hours. You must ask for a « billet jeune » (12-25 years old). But the most interesting is to buy a "carte 12/25" (49 €) which gives you the possibility to get half-price tickets for a year.

You can check these Train timetables on <https://www.oui.sncf/>

We will pick you up from there to Le Créneau.

### By **Train**

The clother Train station are :

- Moulins sur allier
- Vichy
- St germain des fossées

You can check these Train timetables on <https://www.oui.sncf/>

### -Other Options :

There are many other option to joint us :

- Flixbus ( <https://www.flixbus.fr/>) From Paris to Lapalisse
- Carsharring ( <https://www.blablacar.fr/> / <https://covoiturage-libre.fr/> )
- Hitchiking



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à bientôt !