



## ASSOCIATION VIR'VOLT - SOLIDARITES JEUNESSES ILE-DE-FRANCE



### WHO WE ARE ?

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**Solidarités Jeunesses (SJ)** is an association from a movement of non formal education which places in its core values solidarity, voluntary commitment and a strong political will. Our choices and our actions are influenced by our vision of the society, in which the progress is social, where the respect of human being and the environment is a fundamental and shared value, where freedom to choose, to dream and to resist is innate or fostered.

Our activities is organised for all, do not matter about gender, social and cultural background, nationalities. SJ, since its creation, participates concretely to Peace construction, fostering intercultural meeting here in France and abroad. SJ works through participative pedagogy which encourages initiatives, commitment valuation and gathers forces and intelligences from all, volunteers, employees, etc.

Solidarités Jeunesses is composed by one National Secretary based in Paris, and eight regional Delegations. Our delegations host time to time or all year long time volunteers, from France and from all around the world. Furthermore, those delegations and partners monitor and host also youngsters with fewer opportunities, as part of inclusion and solidarity actions. All those friendly delegations and partners are situated in singular and original sites (castle, former camp-site, isolated villages in the heart of mountains, former factory, etc.). Those places have been all renovated thanks to volunteers and people involved on those projects. People live, meet and enjoy together there.

**Did you know it ?** The first workcamps were organised 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.

# ASSOCIATION SOLIDARITÉS JEUNESSES ILE-DE-FRANCE - VIR'VOLT

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**Vir'Volt association** is settled in the city of Saacy-sur-Marne along the Marne river, 60 km in the east of Paris, and in La Ferté-Alais which is a commune in the Essonne department 52 km south of Paris.

Once upon a time...

In 1995, some friends already committed as volunteers to Solidarités Jeunesses decide to create a Regional Delegation in Ile-de-France, which is the region around Paris.

. Those friends wished to deal with international camp in the region, mixing international participants, youngsters in social exclusion, inhabitants and local participants. Till 2006, SJ IDF organises international workcamps and allows to lots of young people from IDF to participate to workcamps in France and abroad. In 2007, after the organisation of a workcamp, the Regional Delegation Vir'Volt established its office in La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, in the east of Paris region. This territorial implementation fostered since that time a good and active partnership with local cities and inhabitants. In 2016 Vir'Volt left Ferté-sous-Jouarre and installed its main office in the town of Saacy-sur-Marne. In 2018 the association is starting a new project in the town of La Ferté Alais, creating a new hosting center on the site of the former town campsite.

The life of the delegation follows the season : from June to Septembre, Vir'Volt organises workcamps and international projects which gather a lot of people from different areas and backgrounds ; from Octobre to May, 5 international long term volunteers and 8 local interns realise different workcamps organised in the region. In Vir'Volt, like in Solidarités Jeunesses, sharing and exchanging are some of the core aims of the association, regarding relationship and daily work. Activities and daily collective tasks are often mixed (volunteer/employee ; volunteer/intern for example to cook for lunch), because each of them has something different to talk about and learn from the other (passion, receipt, knowledge, etc.)

## VOLUNTEERING

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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.

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering can deliver a wealth of benefits including:

- A means of building self-esteem and/or confidence
- A great way to learn or develop skills and interests
- A pathway to enhance work experience
- Enhance your health and get active
- A way to meet new people or broaden your social circle
- As an expression your gratitude for help you may have received in the past
- An opportunity to support a cause you feel strongly about
- Making a real difference to your community.

## PROJECT

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**Project/Work:** In 2017, the association Vir'Volt is starting a new project in partnership with the town of La Ferté Alais. The association is developing a new hosting center, on the place of the former town campsite.

The association uses various camping accommodations (roulottes, yurts, tents...) in order to host people on the site.

The objectives of the association is to develop on and near the site various projects connected with non-formal education and intellectuality, and to host groups which come to take part to the projects of the association.

The role of the volunteers in this project is to help the association and the team of the association to run the place.

As a volunteer in this project, you will experience work with other people in order to discover how to live with each other, people who come from different countries, backgrounds, religions. Besides you will have the opportunity to work a lot outside, building things with recycled material, like wood palettes, making small structures out of stone, taking care of the associations surrounding. You will be able to organize activities for the local people/youth or to organize activities with them. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to host groups of young people for a week or two and work with them. You will also help to host and organize international work camps, Youth Exchanges, and seminars and trainings organized by Solidarités Jeunesses. As a volunteer in Solidarités Jeunesses your role is also to help the associations to promote recycling, importance of clean environment, promote collective life, environmentally friendly practices (recycling, protection of environment, gardening). Promote collective life, richness of diversity, promoting non violence and equality. You will also have opportunities to talk about your volunteer experience in order to promote international mobility and engagement.



## GROUP LIFE

The group will consist of 6 long term volunteers and at least 2 employees of the association. Volunteers usually are of different nationalities and with an average age of 22.

There will 2 employees of the association, which will accompany you in your day-to-day life tasks such as



organizing work and collective life, organizing activities and group hosting, activities, managing the budget, going to the doctor, food etc...

Which language will be used depends on the group and the capacities of each volunteer, but English and french are the common languages on such projects. But taking into consideration, that you will be for a long time in France, the french language day by day will take a bigger part in the daily life and it is recommended to try to speak as much as possible french, because knowing the language helps you to have a better and more joyful experience in the country.

## FREE TIME

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Solidarités Jeunesses considers this kind of projects as an experimentation of collective lifestyle. That is why volunteers will organise their free time and leisures that could fit to group experiment, regarding budget, time and available leisures.



Those possibilities can be really diversified (regional tourism, local events, inhabitants meetings, green tourism, etc.). It is the responsibility of all volunteers to organize their free time and to participate to the good dynamism of the group.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to meet the local population and to explore the surroundings of the town. La Ferté Alais is located in a regional natural park called Gâtinais. You will also be able to take advantage of events taking place in the local community such as concerts or canoing. Volunteers will be able to organize their own collective activities depending on their wishes and the available budget. During your free time or during weekends you are allowed to explore France, its rich nature, culture and cuisine. Of course it is advised to do it as a group.

## BEWARE OF

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Take in to consideration that you will spend some time in the country with different culture and laws. What is allowed or what is a normality in your country may be prohibited or very rude here. So be careful!!!

## ACCOMMODATION

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You will sleep in roulottes (like in the image) located in the hosting center. The centre has bathrooms and showers, as well as a kitchen place. Food will be cooked by the volunteers in turns, which means that at least once a week you will be part of the kitchen team with other volunteers and participants to the projects. Food shopping is done once a week and collectively. So don't worry there is always food ;). The place is located in an former camping site, peaceful natural environment with a lot of trees, so you will have plenty of fresh air and quietness for a good night rest. All the necessary facilities are available either on the site or in the town of La Ferté Alais.

## HOW DO I GET TO VIR'VOLT ?

IF YOU COME BY TRAIN :

From **Paris Gare de Lyon** You take the train line **RER D** in the direction of **Malesherbes** and get off the train at **La Ferte Alais** train station. Someone will wait at the train station for you.

[https://www.transilien.com/sites/default/files/atoms/files/schema-ligne\\_d-2017.pdf](https://www.transilien.com/sites/default/files/atoms/files/schema-ligne_d-2017.pdf) (Map of line RER D)

<http://www.plandeparis.info/paris-metro/metro-map.html> (map of Paris metro system)

You can check out the timetable and book your tickets on the following website:

<http://en.voyages-sncf.com/en/train-ticket>

## HOW TO GET TO LA FERTE ALAIS FROM THE AIRPORTS:

### - From the airport Roissy – Charles de Gaulles:

Take the **RER B** direction **Massy Palaiseau – Saint Rémy les Chevreuse** and get off the train at **Châtelet - Les Halles** and then take the **RER D** destination **Malesherbes** and get of at **La Ferte Alais** station.

### - From the airport Orly:

From Orly airport take the **ORLYVAL** till the stop **Antony** and from there take the **RER B** destination **Aéroport cdg 2 tgvcdg terminal 2 / tgv** till the stop **Châtelet - Les Halles** and from there take the **RER D** destination **Malesherbes** and get of at **La Ferte Alais** station.

### - From the airport Beauvais:

Take the **Beauvais-Paris Airport Shuttle Bus** (17 Euros) to **Paris Porte Maillot** station from there take the metro line **M1** direction **Château de Vincennes** and get off at station **Paris Gare De Lyon** and from there take the train line **RER D** destination **Malesherbes** and get off at station **La Ferte Alais**.

If you are coming by car or hitch-hiking, do not forget to bring a map!  
The meeting point will be the train station of **LA FERTÉ-ALAIS**.

By car, direction **Mennecy** then **Ferté-Alais**.

To find out the best route, you can use the following website: [www.mappy.fr](http://www.mappy.fr)

### Regional delegation

Address: Association Vir'Volt - Solidarités Jeunesses Ile de France  
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77730 Saâcy-sur-Marne  
Phone Number: 0033 9 82 52 50 64 / 0033 6 33.69.22.24  
Email: [dr@virvolt.org](mailto:dr@virvolt.org)  
Person in charge: Luc LENORMAND

**Association address:**

Address: Association Vir'Volt - Solidarités Jeunesses Ile de France,  
Camping de la Ferté Alais  
La Sablière  
91590 Ferté-Alais  
Person in charge: Luc LENORMAND  
Phone Number: 0033 6 33.69.22.24

Emergency contact : Emergency contact at Solidarites Jeunesses in Paris if you can not get in touch with the regional delegation: 0033 6 99 94 84 04



The view of La Ferte Alais as seen from Vir'Volt

