

Survivors guide to...

Village Hosting



Helping hints for hosting a village

YOUR ROLE The role of a village host is to create and maintain a safe, happy, communal atmosphere on your village, and to provide a good example of Christian leadership. You are the first port of call for Delegates with any problems or questions about the conference.

The key to success is a bit of pre-planning and to build relationships with group leaders. The best way to do this is by making initial contact with groups leaders and delegates as they arrive, and to continue to build this further into the conference, for example over mealtimes. Make yourself known early on, and let them know what your role is as many leaders and delegates will not know what you are there for!



This early contact will also help to organise your village; get to them before their tents are pitched. Give some polite reminders about the need for tents to be three metres apart (cook tents 6). Try to make full use of your area, going right out to your boundaries and, where possible, set up a village green look with a central area which is appealing for sport (and water fights!!). Also an on/off access point for emergency vehicles is helpful particularly on larger villages and delegated access points (e.g. gateways) should also remain clear.



Be prepared to reserve an area for larger groups, which you can work out from the delegates list you will receive at the first Village Host meeting. If you are expecting a large group, you might find it helpful to reserve an area so that they can camp together and not be spread all over the village.

The first day is the hardest but good planning will reap its rewards!

Village Host Meetings

These are times when we can worship and pray together, share the joys and struggles of village hosting and catch up with the day's news.

We have found these times valuable for:

- A time to relax and come before God.
- Gauging the feel and direction of the event and feeding back to the leadership team.
- Problem solving and encouragement.

Village Host team meetings are:

7pm the day before delegates arrive in Soul 2 Soul (for Shepton Mallet Events) and in the Grandstand (for Stafford)

10.00 am on day 1—arrival day (for those who missed the 7pm meeting)

2:30pm Days 2, 3, 4 and 5.

At the first team meeting you will be provided with:

- **PROGRAMMES** — explains all the details of the event, what is happening where, and has the detailed seminar programme.
- **SOUL SURVIVOR MONEY** — £5 worth of Soul Survivor money can be used in any of our cafes
- **TEAM BADGE** - All team badges have photos. This helps clearly identify the village hosts and gives an added security measure.
- **VILLAGE INFO** You'll be given a list of who's camping on your village, ordered alphabetically by surname and by group. This will assist in planning your village lay out. I.e. where to allocate the various groups.

HOT CHOCOLATE You will be able to pick up your free tin of hot chocolate from stores on Day 1.

WRISTBANDS This must be worn around their wrist, as stewards will be checking them on the doors into each venue. Please be looking out for these on your village and encouraging delegates to put them on their wrists. Any damaged or lost wristbands will need to be replaced at the Information tent, a charge of £40 may be incurred for any lost wristband.

What will help you help others?

Village hosts (not with groups) may arrive a day earlier to be prepared for the arrival of the delegates. If village hosts are also bringing a group please discuss this with the Soul Survivor office as we may not be able to accommodate large groups arriving on site the evening before the main arrival day.

- Know where Comms, Information and First Aid are.
- If you can, bring any spare equipment; mallets, tent pegs, torch, sleeping bag, toilet rolls!!
- Have a banner/flag notifying delegates who and where you are. (If you don't yet know what Village you've been allocated to its still a HUGE help to have a sign letting people know that you are the 'Village Hosts' - this is vital for stewards and village host team leaders to be able to find you in an emergency, as well as being great for those on your village.
- Village notice board for updates, spare map, changes of venues etc.
- At some point during the week you may want to organise a village event e.g. bring your own BBQ or a late night hot chocolate and biscuits event.

Some ideas used before:

- Have a gazebo for hot chocolate in the evenings
- Draw a sketch of your village, so you can find a group in an emergency, include group leaders phone numbers.

The rules and other helpful guidelines:

- Your role as a village host is to provide a safe environment, not to police your village, therefore any serious issues should be notified to the Steward Managers who will follow up the situation, and take action where necessary. Either contact your village host team leaders or go to comms to get in contact with a steward manager.
- Alcoholic drinks are not permitted on site at Soul Survivor Stafford or Weeks B & C. They ARE allowed at Momentum but usual rules of behaviour apply.
- Illegal substances are not permitted on site.
- Once cars are unloaded they must be moved to the designated car parks. This can be found on the site map.
- A good guideline for noise levels is that delegates should be considerate to others. Villages requested to be winding down by 12 pm with delegates returning to and the villages quiet by 1am. There is a small stewarding team that will assist with any problems at night. They can be contacted via comms. For the main Soul Survivor events, the middle main section of Site is cleared by Stewards at midnight and they switch the main lights off by 12.15pm. For the Momentum event there is not the same requirement to enforce quiet on the villages (as delegates should be in their twenties and thirties) but common courtesy should dictate behaviour at night.
- The curfew village will be quiet at 10.30pm
- No inappropriate tent sharing
- No dogs allowed on site

Teams that Village Hosts work closely alongside:

Fringe

Look after delegates that are not attending the main meetings or who are on the fringe of the groups that they are with. If Village Hosts notice any delegates that are hanging around the villages or not attending anything they can contact the Fringe Team Leader who can then send some team members to make contact with these delegates.

*Please note there is no Fringe team at Momentum.

Connect (Welfare)

Any serious pastoral concerns about delegates should be raised with the Welfare Connect Team Leader, who will follow it up with his/her team.

Stewards

Village Hosts are not in place to police the delegates but to provide a sense of community. If you need to enforce the site rules then a member of the Stewarding Team will be happy to help. Village Hosts are responsible for things such as littering, encouraging and promoting recycling, fire hazards and general health and safety on their village. They should also be able to anticipate trouble makers and liase with the Village Host team leaders— notifying Comms if they need support in specific areas. Stewards are there to support you, but equally you may need to take direction from Stewards from time to time.

Sports

At all the events there is an Inter-village competition on Day 4, organised by the Sports team. A team from each village is invited to enter. Village Hosts are responsible for entering their team and giving the list of names to the Village Host team leaders. (Further info about the competition will be given out at the Day 2 team meeting)

Enabling Team

Please feel released to pray and support the Enabling team by being available during the main meetings and in seminars.

All teams (apart from Stewards and Catering) are encouraged to pray for others and Soul Survivor are re-introducing training on Ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit to facilitate this.

The meeting is called '**Praying for People so that stuff happens**' and is on **Day 2** at **9.30am** each week.

Blueprint for A, B & C and
Seminar D for Momentum.

It's really important for all our teams to go to this—plus its open to delegates too.

Helpful phone numbers:

Team Leaders SS Week A Stafford

TBC

Team Leaders Week B

TBC

Team Leaders Week C

TBC

Team Leaders Momentum

TBC

In EMERGENCY

Ring Comms

0303 333 1335

Or ask a nearby steward to radio Comms or your
Village Host team leaders direct