



SUMMER CAMPS '21

at Gather Green, UK

CONTACT

*Gather Green, Furnace Place Estate,
Haslemere, Surrey*

www.firsthandexperiences.co.uk



ABOUT US

First Hand Experiences, is a social enterprise co-founded by Louisa and Justin Baker, former primary teachers and educationalists who are dedicated to providing children with inspiring and enriching experiences anchored in the natural world. Their summer camps immerse children in the great outdoors, letting them celebrate nature through the arts, music, theatre and whole food adventures.

OUR TEAM

Our passionate and inspirational team bring an unrivalled sense of joy and dedication to their role. Experienced, specialist workshop leaders and their supporting camp mentors work tirelessly to ensure all children make the most of their time with us. All our team are equipped with outstanding communication skills, boundless energy and of course a full DBS. They see their time with us, not merely as a summer job but as being part of a greater mission to reconnect children with the natural world.



GATHER GREEN

Based on a private 1000 acre estate in the Surrey Hills, Gather Green has three main zones across the farm.

REST, SLEEP & PLAY

A camping field with bell tents, a yurt for gathering, compost loos and wash stations. Either side of this field is a wildflower meadow and woodland with a dedicated forest area for unstructured play.

GROW-MAKE-EAT

This is where the children come to sow, plant and harvest their own food in our allotment garden. The food produced here will make its way to the camp kitchen where they learn to prepare their own exciting dishes. Most meals are also eaten here or in the adjacent barn.

CREATE AND CELEBRATE

This zone can be found in the beautiful courtyard of farm buildings which includes the art studio, events barn and outdoor meeting place where we have our final day's performance and feasts with parents.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This summer we offer a combined day and sleep away camp program based completely at Gather Green. Children are placed in one of two 'villages' in either of the following age brackets; 8-11 or 12-14. Each village is split into two 'clans' that contain no more than 15 children who stay in these "bubbles" for all their activities. More on our Covid-19 response [here](#).

Each clan spends two activity sessions daily with one of our four specialist leaders with the rest of the time made up of shorter sessions that promote confidence, well being and importantly allows time for children to just be children, unconstrained by technology and the pressures of school.



LIVING IN HARMONY

We inspire our campers to become independent and resourceful young people who work with and for their natural environment. Through experiencing compost toilets, harvesting and foraging their meals, preparing them in our kitchen and cooking together, children, will sample a self sustainable lifestyle. Children also gain a huge sense of community through their daily duties from their shared creative endeavours, preparing flowers for the dining tables and washing up!



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

We offer a packed and varied programme of outdoor experiences that often carry with them a genuine purpose so that our campers feel supremely motivated and enthusiastic when outdoors. So a morning hike might involve foraging blackberries to be used in an ice cream or collecting sticks in the woods to make a raft in their craft session. This kind of interconnectivity really enriches their learning experience.

THE ARTS INSPIRED BY NATURE

Inspired by their outdoor adventures, professional artists teach the children how to knit, weave, mould, sculpt, carve, paint and build using natural materials. Each stay with us culminates in a vibrant performance inspired by their week's adventures. Children go home proud of their achievements with crafty keepsakes of their time with us in hand.



SMILES ON FACES

Our experience over the years means that we anticipate the varying challenges children naturally encounter when away from home. To counter this, each of our team members brings with them a spirit of genuine warmth and fun so that each child can overcome whatever challenges may arise.

Each day is also interspersed with short sessions that build self confidence, help shed inhibitions, create bonds and help put a smile on your child's face. So, we find any little upsets are resolved through mediation at circle time and any nerves before bed are eased with a comedy sketch around the campfire.



COMFY CAMPING

At Gather Green we spend our nights tucked up under the stars in traditional bell tents pitched in the spacious camping field. The camp has a capacity of 60 children and staff will sleep in their duty tents in the same field for the child's entire stay. Your child will have the use of our individual hot shower blocks for daily showers and compost toilets, with night lights, surround the tents. Each tent has space for four single camp beds with a comfy mattress and a mat flooring.



EARTH FRIENDLY WHOLE FOOD

Built on the philosophy that food is not merely sustenance but a potentially wondrous adventure, on our camps we take each child on an exciting journey from field to fork and hedgerow! With the support and passion shown by our natural chefs your child is sure to leave Gather Green with a new favourite dish from their stay. Allergies and dietary requirements are catered for.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety of the children at Gather Green is paramount and at the forefront of our minds. All of our activities and the camp environment are specially designed for their purpose and full risk assessments are carried out at regular intervals. The general public are prohibited from the site and gates and signposts clearly mark the boundaries.



On arrival at the camp, children are given a tour of the area, are shown the boundaries within which they must stay and given a 30 minute safety orientation by the site manager.

This ensures that all children at the camp know that our rules and regulations are in place to keep them safe. Children are in the presence of staff at all times and they can only leave the camp when accompanied by staff members or parents.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In addition to our high welfare and safety standards there are some changes we are putting in place for summer camp 2021. These include a bubble system of 15 children, social distancing within of 1m and increased heigine timetable and facilities. More on that on our website.



DAY CAMP OPTION

For children who live locally we have a 5-day camp which gives a full array of fantastically natural experiences alongside the overnight campers.

Timings: 8:30am-4.30pm

Early drop off and late pick up available on request.

Prices: £195 per week

All prices include whole food lunch and snacks prepared by our natural chef often with the help of the children.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"I can't praise Louisa, Justin and their amazing team enough, for giving my children and I wonderful memories to treasure. Rosie loved every moment of our overnight stay- delicious food, inspiring activities with a caring, enthusiastic team, comfy tent, beautiful setting. Every child (and adult actually!) needs a first hand experience!"

Abbie Smith

"2 very happy kids = delighted parents! First sleep away camp for our girls and we couldn't have wished for a happier experience. An amazing team, fantastically creative, eternally patient and daringly adventurous, making these magic days and evenings, filled with activities from which dreams are made of! Thank you Justin and all the team!"

Samantha Iacobacci

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

Experience- Create- Celebrate



Sow, Plant & Harvest



Whole Food Cooking



Foraging



Natural Art and Craft



Original Music Making



Spoken Word Poetry



Yoga & Mindfulness



Herbalism



Drama Games



Forest School Adventure

DATES, PRICES & BOOKING

Week 1: July 4-10th

Week 2: July 11-17th

Week 3: July 18-24th

Week 4: July 25-31st

3 Night Stay - Sun-Wed- £220

7 Night Stay - Sun-Sat- £439

2 Week Stay - Sun- Sat with beach visit- £999

Day Camp - Mon-Fri £199

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