



Spring Harvest Holidays
Volunteer Opportunities

springharvestholidays.com/about-us/team



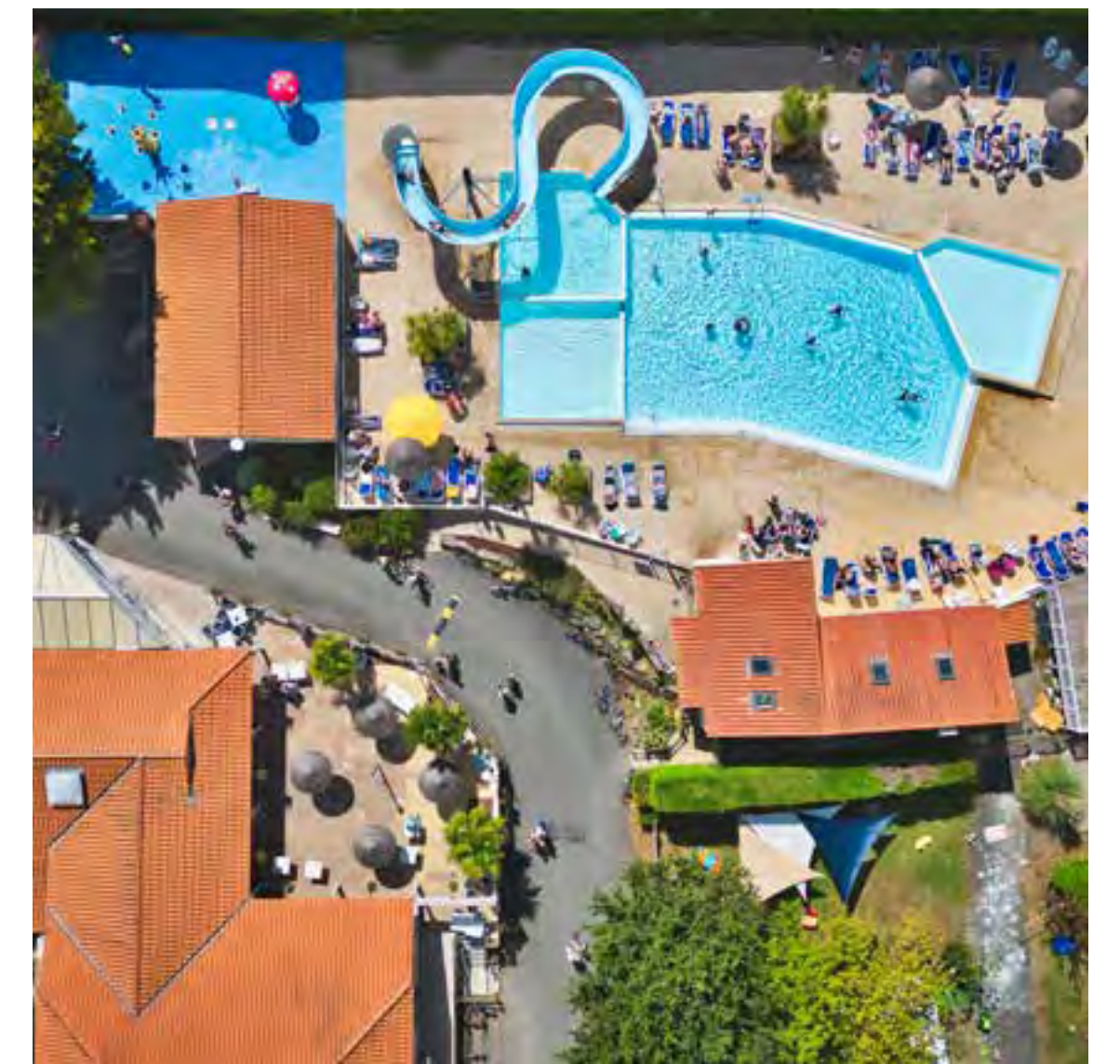
Our vision

Our vision at Spring Harvest Holidays is for guests of Le Pas Opton to enjoy superb holidays in an excellent environment, with the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed: spiritually, mentally and physically.

The “spiritual” aspect of our holidays reflects the ministry and values of Spring Harvest Holidays. We give at least as much attention to the quality of activities for children and teenagers as for adults. We seek to create settings where all ages can worship and learn from the Bible together.

Because we’re a holiday company, we see these ministry activities taking place in a relaxed and unpressurised environment. We recognise that for some guests, time off from meetings will be a valuable part of their holiday experience – so there’s no expectation or requirement to attend any meetings!

For those who join on-site Bible study and worship sessions, our speakers and worship leaders will respect the truth of God’s word and seek the power of the Holy Spirit in varied and creative ways.





Why Volunteer?

Our vision for Spring Harvest Holidays encompasses the development and well-being of our staff team, including the provision of discipleship opportunities for Christians, to learn skills and gain experience that will help to prepare them for lives of Christian service.

We also want to worship Christ in this part of France and encourage the church both locally and nationally – with the prayer that blessing will follow, and the work of the Gospel be advanced in France.

Association Le Pas Opton is the French Charity which delivers our holidays in France. We rely on the generous support of a Montage and Demontage Team to prepare the holiday park each season; an army of Bénévoles to serve our guests and some amazing Animateurs to provide the children's and youth programmes and other exciting activities and entertainment for guests.

Many of the team return year after year, eager to use their gifts to serve others. They are reunited with a community of volunteers who have fun together and are blessed to be part of the Spring Harvest Holidays family.





Volunteer opportunities

Whatever your age, your gifts or experience, we'd love you to join the Team!
There are three main areas in which volunteers serve. Click to view role descriptions.

Animateurs

Helping to deliver our programme for children and young people plus supporting our entertainment programme for all ages. You'll need to be fluent in English, passionate about your Christian faith, energetic and love working in a people facing role, particularly with children or young people.

- [Children's Teams](#)
- [Youth Teams](#)

Bénévolés

Helping in a range of practical tasks that help deliver amazing holidays.

- [Hire Centre Operator](#)
- [Minibus Driver](#)
- [Tech Team](#)
- [Café / Bar](#)
- [Night Shepherd](#)
- [Team Catering](#)
- [Grounds Maintenance and Gardening](#)

Montage & Demontage

Helping set up the holiday park in April/May or preparing it for winter in September.

- [Montage](#)
- [Demontage](#)

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another”. 1 Peter 4 v 10

Frequently asked questions

How old do I need to be?

You must be 18 years or over to serve at Le Pas Opton. If you are applying to be a Minibus Driver, you must have held a full licence for a minimum of three years.

Do I need to be physically fit?

Some roles are more physically demanding than others, especially those on the Montage / Demontage teams. Where practical, we will be pleased to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your personal needs and enable you to fulfil your preferred role. Please notify us when you apply, if this is the case.

Do I need to be a Christian?

If you wish to serve on our children's and youth teams as an Animateur, or in roles that support our spiritual programmes, you will need to be a committed Christian and an active member of a local Christian church.

In all other roles, we love to embrace any offers of help but would ask that you be in sympathy with the Christian ethos of Spring Harvest Holidays and willing to work within our Code of Conduct.

Do I need to speak French?

It is not a requirement for you to speak French, however, we love to welcome guests from across Europe and if you have any European language skills, you will be able to help us host and translate for our guests in their native tongue.

Will I need a DBS check?

Anyone whose role involves working with children or youth will be asked to apply for an Enhanced Level Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), with the Child Barred List check. For applicants living outside of the UK, we will require an equivalent criminal record check or certificate of good conduct from the relevant authority.





Frequently asked questions

Will I need to provide references?

We want to make sure that our holiday park remains a safe place for everyone to enjoy and that those serving as volunteers have the necessary skills and experience to fulfil their roles.

All applicants will be asked to supply contact details for a referee who will be able to confirm their suitability for the role.

Animateurs, and any applicants supporting our spiritual programmes, will also be asked to supply contact details for a church leader who will be able to verify their commitment as a Christian and regular involvement in a local church.

Will meals and accommodation be provided?

Animateurs and Bénévoles will be allocated a bedroom in a shared mobile home. All meals, including a hot meal, will be provided free of charge each day.

Will travel expenses be paid?

If you volunteer for us for 4 weeks or more, or as part of our Montage or Demontage teams, you will be able to claim a contribution towards your travel expenses.

As a Bénévole, will I only have one designated role?

Not necessarily, you may be asked to fulfil other tasks as the need arises.

Will I be able to attend the Bible Studies and Celebrations?

You will be able to attend if you are not required to work in a visitor facing role.

During the season we start each day with a short Bible Study, a time of worship and prayer specifically provided for our team by our adult speaker and worship leader. These are supported by the Leadership Team and pastoral team.

What else should I expect?

All roles require a degree of flexibility. We work together as one big team and sometimes need to help out when unexpected situations arise.

Animateur Team

This role can be short (2-3 weeks) or long (4-12 weeks) term.

Children and young people love their LPO holidays and pester their parents to come back year after year. They love the freedom, the friendships, the activities and the opportunity to make leaps forward in their Christian faith. Our Animateur Team create the fun, the energy, and the passion for Jesus that has become so memorable for many. They also organise a huge range of activities, including age-grouped sessions for children and youth with a mix of Christian content, games and high-energy fun.

What's involved?

- Serving alongside a Team Leader
- Assisting in planning, organising and delivering an age-specific programme on a spiritual teaching theme
- Preparing and delivering activities and short talks
- Encouraging children, young people and fellow team members in words, actions, and prayer
- Serving in the Bar and Café
- Organising wider guest activities and entertainments
- Preparing venues and stewarding meetings
- Attending daily programme team meetings
- Working and living in a close-knit community

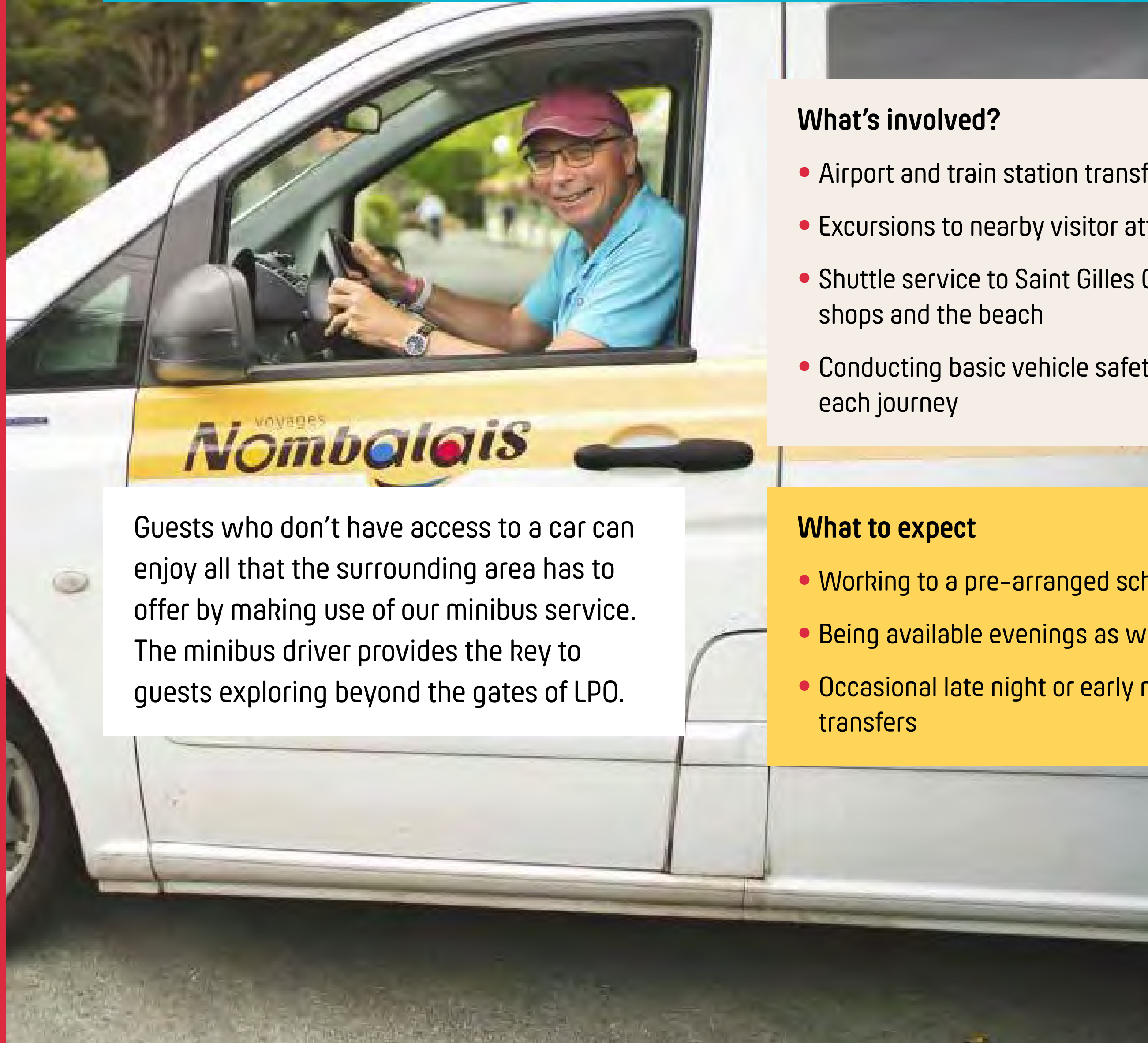
What's needed?

- A clear understanding of, and commitment to, the Christian faith
- Experience of working with children/young people
- Fluent English (CEFR B2/C1) (Dutch, French or German helpful too!)
- Adaptability, resilience and ability to work under pressure
- Physical fitness (reasonable adjustments will be made)
- DBS Enhanced Certificate with Child Barring list check or international equivalent

What to expect

- Membership of Association Le Pas Opton
- A scheduled rota with one full day off each week
- Regular time with our speakers and worship leaders that will challenge and grow you in your own faith

Minibus Driver



Guests who don't have access to a car can enjoy all that the surrounding area has to offer by making use of our minibus service. The minibus driver provides the key to guests exploring beyond the gates of LPO.

What's involved?

- Airport and train station transfers
- Excursions to nearby visitor attractions
- Shuttle service to Saint Gilles Croix-de-Vie, local shops and the beach
- Conducting basic vehicle safety checks before each journey

What to expect

- Working to a pre-arranged schedule
- Being available evenings as well as daytime hours
- Occasional late night or early morning airport transfers

What's needed?

- A full driving licence held for a minimum 3 years and valid for driving in France
- Competence in driving long distances
- Familiarity with driving on the right-hand side of the road
- Basic knowledge of the French 'code de la route'
- A warm welcoming personality
- Patience and flexibility when travel plans change last-minute
- Ability to carry out basic admin tasks relating to journeys

"It's great driving the minibus! Picking up/taking guest to and from the airport and taking them on trips/activities. It can be challenging when flights are disrupted, and can be long hours on arrival days, but always great fun!"

Steve Robins

Night Shepherd

Our Night Shepherd watches over the holiday park at night putting recreation areas 'to bed' and ensuring everyone can enjoy a safe and quiet night's sleep! An unsung hero amongst our volunteer crew!

What's involved?

- Night-time surveillance
- Closing down and securing recreational areas overnight
- Monitoring the café terrace, checking IDs and clearing away glasses after last orders
- Controlling noise levels across the holiday park at night-time
- Assisting guests and team members late at night
- Ensuring everyone is kept safe over-night

What to expect

- Working nights (9:00 PM – 1:30 AM)
- The ability to sleep during the day whilst everyone else is outside having fun!
- Working in partnership with a fellow Night Shepherd

What's needed?

- Friendly, approachable manner
- Attention to detail when securing recreational areas
- Confidence in handling difficult situations.
- Willingness to assist anyone in distress with sensitivity
- Basic training in safeguarding
- DBS Enhanced Certificate with Child Barring list check or international equivalent

“Journey with cultures of Europe as you engage with young people to make their holiday safe and relaxing within the boundaries of the park. Be prepared for friendships because you are just there for them.”

Derek Snalam

Team Cook



An army marches on its stomach and our team are an incredible army! At the heart of the Staff Village, you will be responsible for preparing a hot meal every lunch time and making sure there's food in the fridge for the Animateurs and Bénévoles when they get the munchies later in the day!

What's involved?

- Preparing a hot midday lunch each day
- Following a set meal-plan, using ingredients provided
- Ensuring the kitchen is kept clean and tidy
- Maintaining a high standard of food hygiene
- Identifying when core food stocks need replenishing
- Arranging daily collection of baguettes from the take-away
- Ensuring best use of meal leftovers!

“Probably the most enjoyable aspect of cooking at LPO was the enthusiasm of the lovely Animateurs, who were always hungry and appreciative after working hard all morning.”

Pauline and Jeff Gennings

What's needed?

- Experience in catering for large numbers
- Understanding of special dietary requirements and food allergens
- Good time management skills
- A warm and engaging personality
- Patience and understanding
- Stamina for working in a hot kitchen

What to expect

- A busy working environment
- Pre-written simple recipe cards that can be scaled up or down according to numbers
- Close liaison with the LPO team who shop for groceries
- Busy mornings ensuring lunch is ready for the midday break
- Gratitude from hungry people!

Hire Centre



Our Hire Centre provides a vital service to guests in meeting their expectations for bike hire, gas BBQs and games packs. In this role you will be preparing bikes for the start of the season, providing a hire service throughout the Summer, regularly servicing bikes and decommissioning them ready for storage over Winter.

What's involved?

- Commissioning and /or decommissioning bikes
- Maintaining bikes in good safe working order
- Ensuring guests feel valued and well looked after
- Using the electronic payment system
- Identifying and fixing faults to ensure bikes are roadworthy
- Assisting guests in selecting the correct equipment for safety– right size bikes, helmets, lights etc
- Ordering spare parts via LPO team
- Ensuring pre-ordered equipment is taken out of the main stock

“The Hire Centre is a great way to upskill your mechanical and customer service skills. It’s always a pleasure see people enjoying their holidays by being able to get out and about on a bike!”

Sam Marshall

What's needed?

- Skills and experience in bike maintenance
- A desire to help guests select the right equipment
- Patience and politeness!
- An ability to fix things
- A willingness to undertake training

What to expect

- Set hire-centre opening times, morning and afternoon
- Fluctuations in busyness
- Guests returning to have alterations to bike set-up
- Full working day when commissioning/ decommissioning bikes pre and post season

Tech Team

Working behind the scenes to make sure that our guests have the best experience of our programme and activities, our Tech Team are there to support and serve our Animateurs, speakers and worship team, making sure their presentations can be seen and their voices heard clearly.

What's involved?

- Ensuring AV/tech equipment is prepared and tested before each session
- Operating a PA desk
- Monitoring sound output

What to expect

- Busy periods during the mornings and evening when main meetings and entertainments are taking place
- Being based either in the entertainments area or the marquees
- Close working relationships with LPO staff

What's needed?

- Experience in working with AV and tech equipment
- Willingness to serve often until late at night
- Attention to detail
- An accommodating and professional attitude
- Flexibility to meet rota needs and help out in other areas as required

“I have come away from LPO knowing so much more about PA systems, screens and transmitters, preparing me for my future. Having God at the centre was definitely the most special thing for me!”

Kat Lea-Wilson



Café/Bar

An integral part of a French holiday revolves around good food and wine, so this role will put you at the heart of everyone's favourite things! Whether serving in the café/coffee shop or behind the bar, these are the places where everyone wants to be!

What's involved?

- Serving behind the bar
- Serving in the coffee shop/café
- Preparing hot and cold drinks throughout the day
- Being at the hub of the evening entertainment area and the morning bible study venue
- Clearing tables and cleaning to maintain a pleasant environment
- Multitude of other tasks from stacking dishwashers, to making cocktails or showing your barista skills!

What to expect

- Fluctuations in busyness, with extreme peak times and quiet times throughout the day
- Close working relationships with LPO staff
- Training in understanding the till and pricing systems

What's needed?

- Hospitality or retail experience is beneficial
- Willingness to serve often until late at night
- Warm, friendly and welcoming personality
- Willingness to work closely with the café and bar managers
- Flexibility to meet rota needs

“Working in the coffee shop has been such a rewarding experience for me. I worked with an amazing team who trained me in all areas of the café. And I loved being able to interact with and get to know the guests, whilst providing a welcoming and friendly environment.”

Emma Stuckey

Gardening

Part of the joy of staying at LPO is being surrounded by the beauty of God's creation! Trees, flowers, exotic plants – they're all here and they all need a bit of TLC!

What's involved?

- Light weeding and pruning
- Caring for the hanging baskets and planters around site
- Tending to the vegetable patch
- Any other light gardening jobs

What to expect

- All tools will be provided (secateurs, kneeling pads etc)
- Gloves will be provided but feel free to bring your own if you have a special pair you like to use
- Working on your own or with others
- Huge amounts of joy and satisfaction as you help us to keep LPO looking beautiful!

What's needed?

- Good level of physical fitness (reasonable adjustments will be made where practicable)
- Knowing how to spot a weed!
- Ability to use small gardening tools



Montage Team



Our Montage team work hard to get the holiday park up and running during the Spring in preparation for the Summer season to begin.

If you feel you have something to give but are not sure where your skills and talents would fit best – there's definitely something for you!

What's involved?

- Erecting and kitting out 50+ guest tents
- Putting up marquees
- Moving garden furniture onto pitches
- Setting up tech equipment in the marquee
- Sorting, cleaning and ensuring everything is in good order
- Gardening
- Distribution of bedding to mobile homes and tents
- Moving bicycles to the hire centre
- Preparing bikes ready for the season
- Painting – inside and outside
- Cooking for the team (1 person)

“Having received so much from LPO over the years, it has been great to give back. In reality, LPO has given again in the act of volunteering in memories and experiences with amazing people. I would recommend it to anyone”.

Jonno Ball

What's needed?

- Good level of physical fitness (reasonable adjustments will be made where practicable)
- Ability to work within a team and/or alone
- A positive contribution towards communal living
- Adaptability, willingness to ‘get stuck in’!
- Bike maintenance and/or AV skills (helpful, but not essential)
- Turning your hand to almost any task required!

What to expect

- Starting the day with a shared breakfast and a chance to commit the day to God with a time of prayer and reflection
- For some roles, strenuous working days, demanding a level of physical fitness and strength. (some lighter opportunities are available)
- A 35-hour working week, from approximately 8am to 4pm each day
- Time to enjoy communal living in the evenings

Demontage Team

Our Demontage team work hard to pack up the holiday park at the end of the season, ensuring that everything is cleaned, neatly stored and any repairs needed are catalogued ready for winterisation.

If you feel you have something to give but are not sure where your skills and talents would fit best – there's definitely something for you!

What's involved?

- Taking down and storing tents and marquees
- Identifying and recording faults
- Moving garden furniture and bikes into winter storage
- Dismantling tech equipment
- Dismantling hanging baskets
- Collecting and sorting bed linen for laundering
- Cleaning and sorting staff uniform
- Sorting and cleaning certain areas ready for the winter
- Sorting equipment, stock, board games etc

“It really is a privilege to help pack the site away at the end of the season. More than that though, it is a great opportunity to work hard, make new friends and have a whole heap of fun along the way”.

Rich and Ruth Matheson

What's needed?

- Good level of physical fitness (reasonable adjustments will be made where practicable)
- Ability to work within a team and/or alone
- A positive contribution towards communal living
- Adaptability and a willingness to 'get stuck in'!
- Bike maintenance and/or AV skills (helpful but not essential)
- Ability to turn your hand to almost any task!

What to expect

- Starting the day with a shared breakfast and a chance to commit the day to God with a time of prayer and reflection
- For some roles, strenuous working days, demanding a level of physical fitness and strength. (some lighter opportunities are available)
- A 35-hour working week, from approximately 8am to 4pm each day
- Time to enjoy communal living in the evenings

SHH Sponsorship Fund

All Animateur and Bénévole roles at Le Pas Opton are voluntary, working for our French charity *Association Le Pas Opton*.

We do not want finances to stop you volunteering with us. Particularly those of student age, you may be keen to serve, but also needing to finish your summer vacation in a better financial position than when you started. We want you to grow in your faith and leadership skills through the unique fun and challenge of serving on our teams. That is why the SHH Sponsorship Fund exists.

Volunteers serving for four weeks or more in a season can apply for payment of up to €150 per week.

The fund is held and distributed by the Essential Christian charity, the charitable group to which Spring Harvest Holidays belongs. Hosting the fund here means that Gift Aid can be reclaimed on relevant donations.



To find out about donating to the fund or applying for sponsorship, visit www.springharvestholidays.com/about-us/volunteer-sponsorship



SPRING
HARVEST
HOLIDAYS

Christian holidays in France

springharvestholidays.com