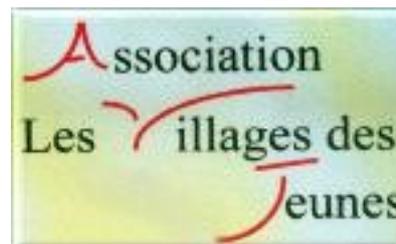


Villages des jeunes

Village des jeunes is the *Solidarités Jeunesses* local office in the Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur, in the south-east part in France. It is located in the Hautes Alpes region, between Grenoble (80 km) and Gap (45 km), 12 km away from a small town called Veynes.

There are three different centers: Le Fai, les Crots et Vaunière.

These structures are all in isolated areas where you will have the opportunity to be very close to nature. Modern technology should not make us forget that recycling, management of water use, and the maintenance of our natural heritage are integral parts our daily life and our prospects for the future.



Le Fai

The association Village des Jeunes, the regional delegation of *Solidarités Jeunesse* in Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, is an informal education association recognized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Through its actions, the Villages des Jeunes aims to promote :

- The voluntary participation of everyone, especially the youth and the underprivileged, in local, national and international life.
- Local development that keep in mind individuals, the environment and cultural heritage.
- Communication between people from different countries and different generations.
- The concrete construction of peace.

Toward this aim, the association organises short and long-term international programmes, integration actions, trainings, international solidarity actions, and manages three hosting structures in rural environments, including the farm called le Fai. Le Fai is a old farm, located 3 km from the village of Saix (80 inhabitants), in a rural area with a declining population.

Collaborating closely with the SIVU (Dedicated Inter Community Union) of the villages of Saix and of Saint Auban d'Oze and the local authorities , the association promotes actions in the above areas that foster activities in the following areas:

Local action: By transforming the farm into a hosting centre and international meeting place, by youth projects in nearby villages to promote local projects, and by social utility actions such as rehabilitation courses for the long-term unemployed, retreats for adults and adolescents, hosting of families, groups and handicapped persons.

Cultural action: The geographic situation of the farm at the foot of a natural circus led to an acoustic project unique in its kind, using speakers to transform the cliff into a genuine natural organ. Here we hold many cultural gatherings, and we also help to organize events in the surrounding region.

Environmental action: Located in a sensitive natural area, the different installations of the farm are also didactic tools. They can make the public aware of the protection of nature (sorting the garbage, dry toilettes, reflection over renewable energies).

Throughout the year, the farm is managed by two permanent employees and a team of volunteers (4 persons including two EVS) who help implement the project. The association also includes 15 administrators and about thirty volunteers who come to help in the organisation of the different activities on a regular basis.

Permanents, volunteers, administrators and hosted public are all responsible for the daily life in the camp, and to ensure that the rules are respected. This means that everybody takes part in the maintenance, upkeep, cleaning and cooking. Volunteers who wish may also attend board meetings.

The association les Villages des Jeunes aims at welcoming different types of people, especially

the young and the underprivileged. As the association evolves, the continued presence of volunteers of all nationalities, along with the presence of French people from different social backgrounds has become essential to the association. It ensures an intercultural exchange which is the foundation of our association, and represents an important lever for our local development actions.

The objectives which lead us to welcome volunteers are the following :

- Enriching our actions and starting new ones;
- Promoting peace by confronting different ideas;
- Proposing a real intercultural exchange to the hosted public;
- Fighting deep-rooted prejudices in the local population, through actions developed externally;
- Giving the hosted volunteers the opportunity not only to give but also to be on the receiving end of exchange as they meet the local population.

The volunteers will participate in the following activities :

- **The project/work camps:** This category describes the ongoing work that occurs at the farm. It is the area in which education takes place, and where people can exchange through work. It concerns environmental projects (cleaning rivers, clearing brushwood), cultural heritage projects (working on a old Chalaisienne abbey), restoring and improving projects of buildings in villages or in the farm.
In agreement with the paid staff, the volunteers who want to may become pedagogic activity leaders on these projects.
- **Hosting:** The ferme du Faï has space to welcome groups, families and individuals who are on holiday and/or desire to participate in projects. The volunteers will be encouraged to participate in leading these activities (cooking, organising cultural nights, games, hikes in the mountains).
- **Cultural activities:** We strongly encourage the volunteers to join our team in organizing the cultural activities which take place in the farm or in the nearby villages. Examples could be music festivals, farmers markets, parties around a traditional baker's oven, shows, etc.

Personal projects are seen as a way to reflection, discovery and personal enrichment for the volunteers, and to this end, after an initial period of settling in, the volunteer will have the chance to carry out one or more individual or collective projects that go along with the goals of the overall project.

French lessons can be arranged according to interest.

To take part in this project, the volunteer must:

- have a genuine interest in the proposed activities;
- be willing to live in a group for several months;
- be aware that the ferme du Faï is located on a mountain in a very isolated place.

