

Maison des Bateleurs - Solidarités Jeunes





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1- Introduction of Association

Until 2009, SJ (Solidarités Jeunesses) was the French branch of the international movement -Youth Action for Peace (AJP).

It was established in 1923 after the First World War by French and German Protestants.

AJP was the beginning of a movement to overcome international and culture barriers to achieve peace.

These days, in the model of the original movement, SJ brings together young people and adults for projects and social engagement.

The expectation is to promote intercultural exchange and encounters.



Solidarités Jeunesses

Our causes :

- For active and responsible citizenship
- Against the exclusion of those with disadvantages
- For a local development conscious of the environment, individuals and cultural heritage
- For bringing down the boundaries between generations, cultures and nations
- For a tangible construction of the peace.



Solidarités Jeunesses consists of:

- 7 regional delegations
- 1 national network
- 2 partner associations





2- Association Maison des Bateleurs - Solidarités Jeunesses

La Maison des Bateleurs - Solidarités Jeunesses is a regional branch of Solidarités Jeunesses which was created in 1993. The aim is to break social, cultural and intergenerational barriers by living and working collectively and maintaining the site.

The goal of la Maison des Bateleurs- Solidarités Jeunesses is to give new energy to rural areas by allowing French and international volunteers, employees and young people to live and to work together at the center. The building was renovated during international work camps in 1995. Today it is a home for volunteers, an office for the staff and a place where group and individual hosting take place.

Also we have a woodshop, chicken house, garden, bamboo forest etc.



3- People

- 1) Volunteers
- 2) Individual and group hosting
- 3) Office team



1) Volunteers

There are two types of volunteers.

Long-term volunteers who stay for 6-12 months (European Voluntary Service, Civic Service, international volunteers) and short-term volunteers who stay for 1-2 months.

They live in the same place, share rooms, collective life and rules.

The volunteers are of different nationalities and primarily use English and French.

Usually there are maximum 8 long-term volunteers.



2) Group and individual hosting

There are not only volunteers but also some **residents** are living in La Maison des Bateleurs. There are hosted individually or in a group.

Most individual hosting is for **teenager** who stay for short term (a week or so) or long term (more than several months). Those teenagers are living with the volunteers and sharing the collective life with them.

Otherwise the hosting **groups** are spending a few days to two weeks, staying in the same place but in other dormitory than the volunteers.

A group is teenagers or adults which are coming with an educator, facilitator or social worker.

The team of long-term volunteers is here to welcome them, to explain to them the project, or just to share time together. Hence, the volunteers have to be present some weekends.



3) Office team

Currently, three permanent staff members are employed in La Maison des Bateleurs.

Each employee is in charge of a different aspects of the project:

- Technical leader
- Volunteering/ Group and individual hosting/ European projects & collective life
- Staff coordination, management of the association and International work camps



4- Projects in La Maison des Bateleurs

- 1) Collective work
- 2) Food
- 3) International Work Camps
- 4) Summer season

Projects in La Maison des Bateleurs



1) Collective work

All work corresponds with the aim of La Maison des Bateleurs. Every resident is involved in collective work every weekday: cooking, landscaping, gardening, taking care of chickens, cleaning, doing maintenance and renovation, developing local activities etc. We decide as much as possible together what we have to do and also we manage the collective life together and solve problems (if needed) together during the home meetings.

Here is an example of a typical weekly schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00- 12.30	Collective Cleaning/ Collective Work	Collective Cleaning/ Collective Work	Collective Cleaning/ Collective Work	Collective Cleaning/ Collective Work	Collective Cleaning/ Menu meeting
14.00-17.00	Personal project	French Lesson/ personal project	Collective Work	Collective Work	Home meeting



1) Collective work

Every morning, we do collective work like gardening, cooking, cutting and maintaining bamboo forest, and taking care of the chickens. It varies slightly day by day, but in the afternoon we continue to work and organize local development activities (Carnaval, Christmas for all, Halloween, activities with kids: game center and school, etc.)

On Thursdays and Fridays we have meetings with staff to talk about food, future collective work ideas and collective life.

Long term volunteers can choose to have a personal project, depending on what they want to learn, their interests and how they can contribute.

We hope that your personal project promotes the values of la Maison des Bateleurs.

New ideas are welcome!



2) Food

We manage all aspects of the menu in the house and cooking is one of daily collective work activities. Thus, everyone is involved at least a little bit in cooking and choosing the menu. We organize “menu meeting” where each resident can propose menu items for the upcoming week. You are encouraged to cook meals from your country or region!

We try to consume as many local vegetables and fruits as possible. According to the association’s image of ideal life, we try to eat better: less meat, local and seasonal ingredients (meat, vegetables, fruits). And of course, we eat what is coming from our garden: salad, cabbage, tomatoes, etc.

The meal represents an important collective moment for sharing and taking time to eat, discuss and interact together.



3) International Work Camps

We organise international work camps from spring to the end of summer. These camps normally consist of 12 international volunteers whose French people. It could be camp for adults or for teenagers. During 2 or 3 weeks, they work together in one specifically project (renovation of building, environmental project, social and cultural project...), share collective life and live together.

They have to organise their own daily life with their work camps leaders and with the technical leader.

The long term volunteers of La Maison des Bateleurs could be the workcamp leader of these international work camps.



4) Summer Season

During the summer, you can meet many people in La Maison des Bateleurs. Some of them are from the international work camps and the others are from hosting groups.

All group people and inhabitants are encouraged to mingle and get to know each other. We can host group during the weekend or to have some events that's why the volunteers have to be present on some weekends.

Moreover, we organise the Open Doors, time to invite people to discover our association, to see what we are doing, to share our values and to spent a great time together.



5- Information

- 1) Airport
- 2) Train
- 3) Contact information



1) Airport



Montendre is a rural town with about 3200 inhabitants in an agricultural region, about 70 km north of Bordeaux and 80 km from the Atlantic Ocean.

You can arrive at the airport in Paris.
Then you can take a train to Bordeaux Gare St Jean.
Once in Bordeaux, take a train to Montendre.

You can arrive at the airport in Bordeaux Mérignac.
Then you can take the shuttle
<http://www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr/fr/info/jetbus-navette-aeroport-bordeaux>
or bus #1

<http://www.infotbc.com/ligne/1>
to the trainstation (Gare St Jean) and take a train to Montendre.



2) Train

There is a train from Bordeaux (Gare St Jean) to Montendre.
You can check more information about the train by visiting this website:

<http://www.voyages-sncf.com/>

And if you arrive by car, our address is:

Maison des Bateleurs,
4 avenue de Onda,
17130 Montendre, France



3) Contact information

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