

Camphill School and Camphill Farm Community

Hemel en Aarde Valley, Hermanus

GENERAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION DETAILS

OUR BACKGROUND

Camphill Hemel & Aarde consists of a School and Farm Community and is part of the worldwide Camphill Movement founded in the 1940s by Dr Karl Konig, an Austrian physician, writer and educator. It draws inspiration from the philosophy and practical teachings of Dr Rudolf Steiner called Anthroposophy. By the end of the 1940s there were five centres clustered together outside Aberdeen, Scotland. In the 1950s new centres were founded in England, Northern Ireland and South Africa (1952). Throughout the last decade new communities have sprung up in other countries and continents. Each has its own particular purpose, but at the heart of every centre the guiding impulses have been the same: the effort of each individual to extend his personal ambitions to help others and through living in a community to create a healing environment that encourages everyone to develop to his fullest potential.

WHERE WE ARE

Our community nestles in the beautiful Hemel en Aarde Valley near Hennis (approx. 120km from Cape Town). It is a peaceful setting surrounded by mountains. Unlike the other provinces of South Africa, the South Western Cape has winter rainfall. This means our summers are dry and hot. Thanks to the refreshing sea breeze the summers are quite bearable. Winters are often cold, stormy and slashed by powerful gales. Warm clothing, rain gear and hiking boots are essential since temperatures can drop close to zero and the houses are not centrally heated. Those are the cosy times around the fireplaces.

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Life in a Camphill community can be quite different from the way you have been living. You will become part of a large extended family, which includes children or adults with special needs, other co-workers and their children. As a coworker you will be required to take care of a small group of children or a small group of adult villagers; these duties to include taking care of their personal hygiene. You will also assist in the house community, helping with housework, cooking, cleaning and laundry, under the guidance of a houseparent. Farm co-workers will also be required to work in one of our workshops or on the land. School co-workers will, under the guidance of a teacher, assist in the classroom. **(Please note: workshops only apply to the Farm Community)**

If you join us you will be part of a group of people from many nationalities and cultures. As we are an English speaking community it is essential that you understand and speak the language. It is also important to remember that English should be spoken socially, even if you are addressing someone from your home country.

WHO IS A CO-WORKER?

All people who volunteer to work and live in our community are co-workers. Together we take on the responsibility of caring for the children or adults; running the houses and workshops. There is no hierarchy, manager etc., so the community decisions are made by groups of people (long term only). A **short-term co-worker** is someone who has committed themselves for one full year. It would be possible to extend your commitment if desired.

A **long-term co-worker** is someone who commits for a minimum of two years and longer. Long-term co-workers carry more responsibility in the community and are expected to commit to the relevant meetings. The financial needs differ from those of a short-term co-workers. These can be discussed at the interview.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

We share a strong cultural and social life based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner. Living in a Camphill Community is a way of life and not a „9 AM to 5 PM job‘. At times our hours can be long and demanding. On the lighter side there are many activities including plays, music, talks, painting and drawing. If you play a musical instrument please bring it along (unless it happens to be a piano! There is one available in the central hall building). We also have many other evening activities such as lectures, concerts, walks and excursions. Your initiative in this realm will be greatly appreciated. Our community is enriched by what you can offer. We do expect your commitment towards the participation in our cultural activities and festivals.

RELIGION

Christianity is important to our way of life although we are entirely non-denominational! Christian festivals form a very important part of our annual rhythm and around each one special artistic and cultural events are organised.

At the Saturday's Bible Evening, which is celebrated in each house, the New Testament is read and we form a special evening around it. We discuss the passage of the Bible and talk about recent events and review the past week.

The Bible Evening is also seen as a preparation for the Sunday service to which we accompany the people in our care. In order to lift these occasions out of the everyday routine we dress more formally. Co-workers need to set an example and dress appropriately.

We are however, open to people of all religions and respect them. You will never be constrained to change you believes or do things you cannot. Although you need to participate in the Christian service or Christian festivals due to your responsibilities for a Child/Adult even if you cannot identify with it.

At the moment we have people in our community from most major religions.

TRAINING

Upon arrival the first week will be seen as an introduction week. On the farm you will work in each workshop to acquaint yourself. Each newcomer must participate in our one year Introduction Course. It consists of weekly sessions covering topics relating to Camphill, Anthroposophy, and the needs of our residents. This course will help you to be more fully equipped for your tasks here. A two year seminar in Curative Education and Social Therapy is offered to long-term co-workers and will be discussed on arrival.

REMUNERATION

All work is done voluntarily. All co-workers receive their board and lodging and modest monthly pocket money. Each person gives the benefit of their work to the community and receives from the community cover for their basic needs.

ACCOMMODATION

Each co-worker is provided with a single room and will be required to share bathroom facilities with other household members. Our way of life demands a certain amount of flexibility. It can happen that after a time one is asked to move to another house or workshop because a greater need has arisen. While this may be difficult for you, the basic attitude of Camphill is to help where there is a need.

CARS AND TRANSPORT

We own several vehicles which are used by appointed drivers for our various transport needs. One vehicle is available for the use of short-term co-workers on their days off. In order to use these cars you will need to bring your original driving licence and to have possessed this for a minimum of one year. Drivers from outside South Africa must obtain an International Drivers Licence before departure. Newcomers to Camphill are required to pass a driving assessment before being allowed to drive a Camphill vehicle. According to individual ability you may be required to drive different vehicles of our fleet in a specified capacity. In order to make use of the short-term co-worker vehicle (driver or passenger), a refundable deposit of R350.00 will be required.

PLEASE NOTE: The milage of the co-workers will be charged to you. At the moment the rate is R1,20/km. The Community is situated approx. 10 km out of town and there is no public transport available.

It is possible to walk to Hermanus. It will take you approximately 45 minutes. It is a nice walk over the hill on the so called elephant path. Please be aware of possible security risks and walk only in company!

MEDICAL PROVISION

You must take out a medical insurance to cover your personal medical and dental needs for the first year as this is not provided by us and medical care in South Africa is very expensive.

GENERAL

We welcome volunteers from South Africa as well as from overseas who wish to gain life experience while being of service. Although we are in Africa and the pupils and many of the co-workers/staff come from the local communities, the character of our Camphill School is European. The Camphill Farm Community is situated next to the school, but is run separately, as the time-tables are very different. Co-workers cannot work in both places simultaneously and have to choose beforehand which Community they wish to join. The character of the Farm Community is also European, as are most of the residents.

The minimum age requirement for volunteers is 19 years. Useful qualifications are welcomed but in most cases no special qualifications are necessary besides enthusiasm, commitment to learn and a willingness to share life with all kinds of people. You may include copies of certificates/diplomas that might be relevant to your application.

We have found that it takes a few months to acclimatize to life in Camphill. We would therefore ask for One Year commitment as the minimum.

Applicants should note that Camphill is not a financially wealthy community. Living within our economic limitations may require some adaptation on your part. We do not have the means to pay for your Travel costs (e.g. Flight Ticket), Medical examination and Police clearance fees, Visa application or extension costs. Foreign co-workers must have a return air ticket. Before your departure to South Africa we will require a copy of this as well as a copy of your visa. As visa regulations change frequently please contact your nearest SA Embassy for the latest available information.

CAMPHILL SCHOOL

Was founded in 1952, and is a multi-cultural private residential and day school for children and adolescents in need of special care, accepting all denominations. We are one of the only few facilities in the area, public or private, providing

boarding and education for special needs children between the ages of 5 and 20. Children with Downs Syndrome, brain injuries, epilepsy, autism, emotional disturbances, learning difficulties and traumatised lives benefit from being here. The residential children live and play in a rural setting, growing up in family house communities. The day pupils are bussed in from the local area daily. All children are placed in classes according to their ages. The curriculum covers a wide range of subjects and is based on the Waldorf! Steiner School method of teaching, adapted to suit the needs of the specific children in a class. In addition to training in basic skills there is a good deal of artistic work such as drawing and painting, music and modeling, movement and drama.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND FREE TIME

All school co-workers have one free day per week.

There are four holidays per year. During these periods community life does not stop. Although the majority of the children will be away there are always some who stay behind and need to be looked after. Cleaning and maintenance of the houses and grounds are also done by co-workers. Alternatively you may be asked to work in one of the farm workshops or houses especially during the busy tourist seasons when production is at its peak. All co-workers are entitled to eight weeks holiday per year. To make preparation for the next term, co-workers may be required to return from their holidays one week before term begins.

CAMP HILL FARM COMMUNITY

Accommodates 62 adults with special needs. It was founded in 1976 and is based on the idea of mutual help where there is interdependence between all members of the community. The farm has 7 communal homes which vary in size from 9 to 20 people. Through living and working together the distinctions between various members of the community become transformed into an appreciation of the contribution that each individual makes to the whole. Almost everyone is connected to a workshop.

WORKSHOPS (ONLY APPLICABLE TO FARM COMMUNITY)

Our 125 ha Dairy and gardens which are run according to Bio-dynamic methods produce milk, eggs, meat and vegetables.

- Our Dairy processes milk into yoghurt and cheeses, which are mainly sold in our shop in Hermanus and via distributors elsewhere.
- Our Vegetable garden supplies vegetables for our own use and for a market in fernkloof nature reserve.
- Our Herb Garden grows herbs, which are processed and sold to farm stalls and health shops.
- The Bakery produces bread, pastries and rusks to Hermanus and further afield.
- Our own village distribution store buys and sells provisions for our daily needs.
- The Wood workshop produces various woodwork items.
- The Candle Workshop produces handmade candles.
- The Estate and Maintenance Team maintain our houses, gardens and grounds.

FARM HOLIDAYS

Short-term co-workers are entitled to six week holiday per year. It is your responsibility to organize your holiday with the house and workshop. If your friends and family are coming to visit you: please make sure that it is planned together with your holiday time well in advance.

Short-term co-workers have one free day a week and one weekend in every third month. All co-workers are asked to be available at all other times including weekends according to a reasonable daily routine.

Long-term co-workers have four weeks holiday per year. If possible do not plan your holidays over the festival times. The festivals are as follows:

- The beginning of Lent until Easter Monday
- Ascension and 10 days to Whitsun.
- St Johns (last week in June)
- Michealmas (Last week in September)
- Advent, Christmas and the Holy Nights (the whole of December until 6th January)

INFORMATION ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA

It would be helpful for you to obtain some information about South Africa and its past.

- A good Novel to read is „*Long Walk to Freedom*“ a Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

- Indaba My Children: African Folktales by Credo Vusa'mazulu Mutwa. ISBN-10: 0802136044

- A book about the Bushmans is: „The lost World of the Kalahari“ by Laurence van der Post (*ISBN 0156537060 or 014001716X or 009942875X*) also available in German: (*ISBN 3-87329-021-9*) .

Movies

-*Cry Freedom*-

This movie was made during apartheid and filmed in Simbabwe. It was made to demonstrate against the cruelty of Apartheid.

-Red Dust-

This movie is about the -truth and reconciliation program-. It is very touching and very good to get a picture of the time shortly after apartheid.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR BOTH SCHOOL AND FARM COMMUNITIES

PERSONAL CONDUCT

At Camphill Hemel en Aarde our work and lifestyle is living with and caring for people with special needs. We aim to create an environment that is safe, healthy and promotes the full potential of each individual within the community. Owing to the nature of our work, the use of prohibited drugs and the abuse of alcohol is not permitted inside or outside of the community. Such actions may lead to instant dismissal. It is important for co-workers to be alert and able to help with difficult situations at any given time. The children and adults in need of special care require our fullest awareness. As they are vulnerable, personal integrity and a sense of responsibility are essential. The healing work in Camphill would be impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs. In addition, as a public organisation, we are directly accountable to the government and the parents of the people in our care.

Those smoking cigarettes must not do so during work, indoors or in the presence of children.

If you understand and agree with the above and are prepared to comply with it, please sign the ACCEPTANCE FORM below and send it in with your application.

IN CONCLUSION

We would like to say that we feel our life is meaningful and good although it is not always easy or comfortable. You will be busy throughout the day as well as most evenings and the new challenges can be intense and demanding. At the same time you will meet many interesting and rewarding new experiences and learn new skills. Your participation can add its unique contribution to our community life.

The conditions in the general information may change from time to time without notification. Please contact us or visit our website <http://www.camphill-hermanus.org.za> for the latest information.

Please provide us with relevant information about you with the forms provided and include the following items in your application

- 1) Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Handwritten letter explaining why you would like to join Camphill
- 3) Two written references. Please include the address and telephone/fax numbers of the persons who wrote the references
- 4) Acceptance Form signed by you
- 5) A recent photograph of yourself
- 6) Police report
- 7) Medical and psychiatric evaluation by a qualified doctor
- 8) Consent forms from „Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners“ (Applicants from Germany who wish to do their Alternative Civil Service or Voluntary Social Year)

Send your application to:

or

Camphill School
Attention: Reception Group
P0 Box 68, Hermanus 7200, RSA
Tel: +27 (0)28 3138 216 (School Office)
Tel: 27 (0)28 3138 257 (Sirkka Rodriguez)
Fax: 27 (0)28 3138 238
Email schoolreception@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Camphill Farm Community
Attention: Reception Group
P0 Box 301, Hermanus 7200, RSA
Tel: 27 (0)28 3138 200 (office)
Tel: 27 (0)28 3138 207 (Birgit Köster)
Fax: 27 (0)28 3138 210
Email co-workers@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Camphill School and Camphill Farm Community
Hemel en Aarde Valley, Hermanus

CO-WORKER APPLICATION

PERSONAL DETAILS

1. Name:
2. Address:

3. Telephone/Fax:
4. Email:
5. Date/Country of birth:

6. Nationality:
7. South African applicant: I.D. Number:
Foreign applicant: Passport number:
7. Home language:

8. Name, address and telephone number of a relative or close friend (state relationship):

9. Marital status:
10. Children (state number of children and their ages):
11. Other dependents (please list):
12. Do you have any financial obligations?:

13. Do you have medical insurance? (please give details):

GENERAL INFORMATION

14. I would like to join from (earliest date):
15. For a minimum period of:
(Please note that we can only accept co-workers who commit for at least one year.)
16. What is your motivation?
(e.g. I need work, I want to be trained as a care-worker, I have a special interest in ..., I wish to do alternative civil service or voluntary social year, etc.)

17. Would you like to work with children or with adults?:

18. (For farm co-workers only): To which workshops do you think you could contribute?
19. Have you ever visited a Camphill community?:
20. If Yes: Which one and for how long?:

21. Do you have a driver's licence?:
22. Do you play a musical instrument or have other artistic skills?:

23. What are your plans after you leave Camphill?:

GENERAL HEALTH

24. Do you have any special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian)?:
25. Do you suffer from allergies?:
26. Do you suffer from chronic illness or physical disabilities?:
27. Do you have psychological problems/breakdowns?:
28. Dependencies in the past or present?:
29. Have you taken prohibited drugs?:
30. If Yes, did you stop, and when?:

Be assured that your sharing of health issues will be treated with respect and does not exclude you from acceptance into the community. It is in all our best interests to look realistically at the implications of you joining us before you come. Also, please note that in South Africa, Marijuana is an illegal drug. Offenders are prosecuted by the state and visas will be immediately canceled!

Please tick the items you had sent or are including with this form

- Curriculum Vitae
- Hand-written letter explaining why you would like to join Camphill
- Two written references. (Are the address and tellfax numbers of the persons included?)
- Acceptance Form signed by you
- A recent photograph of yourself
- Police report
- Medical and psychiatric evaluation by a qualified doctor
- Consent forms from „Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners“ (Applicants from Germany who wish to do their Alternative Civil Service or Voluntary Social Year)
- Others (please specify):

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ACCEPTANCE FORM

I,, hereby confirm that I have read, understood and agree to all conditions as stated in the general information sheet.

Signed at:

Date:.....

.....
(Signature)