

Forest Way

Outdoor Outreach



Christian

Outdoor

Leadership

Training

*A discipleship training
programme in personal life-
development for young adults.*

❖ *Prospectus* ❖

2009

Introduction



Few young people are prepared to make the commitments for a lifetime that are required on leaving formal schooling, and there are many things that schooling does not or cannot prepare you for. The concept of a "gap year" before making those vital and expensive career or study decisions is

becoming increasingly popular, and is a felt need in the absence of military service, and in an increasingly fast-changing world.

Forest Way's gap year programme, C.O.L.T., is aimed at Christian young people who are looking for a programme with relevance to their future life and choices, who would like to test out what they can do, try a wide variety of skills and learn a whole lot more, all in a safe but challenging environment.

What will I do?

Trainees will be fully involved in all aspects of the operation of this popular outdoor education centre. They will major on the programming of these events which may vary from a one day environmental education experience to a rural school, through a multi-day adventure expedition, to a sophisticated business conference or corporate team-building event. Other times are spent in training and experiences, the maintenance of the equipment, and preparation and planning for the future. This gives an all-round practical life-experience no starting-out young adult should be without.



The life-style is balanced enabling the participant to successfully adjust to a new work or study career, having had opportunity to hear and test God's specific calling on their life.

Training

The year will include most if not all of a Biblical overview (adjusted to individuals), a national camping conference, a trip to extend the experience elsewhere in the country, and other events and opportunities as they arise. And these are many!

Use is made of the National Qualifications Framework qualifications where appropriate and possible. Plans for next year include Abseil Supervisor, Flat Water Paddling, Level 2 Wilderness





First Aid followed by ambulance experience, Field Guide, etc. These alone make up approximately 55% of the total costs.

Specific internal training will include internal emergency procedures, outdoor leadership and group management, practical skills involved in property and equipment maintenance, people skills, activity facilitation, and much more.

The training schedule is dynamic and very much influenced by the individuals personal needs and motivations.

However, the real value of the year is not in the formal or even the informal training. The life-changing and edifying memories will arise out of the challenges of the life experiences of that the particular year. We are involved with real life individuals living out a life of obedience to and faith in the almighty God, hearing Him for our direction and future. No year is the same as another – how can it be otherwise with such a infinite and creative God?!



Why COLT?



What makes COLT different is that the trainee will be joining an active and working staff team. This is not a protected, artificial or contrived training experience, offered in the hope it will be have relevance. Trainees are involved in real life. However the trainees are under the guidance and discipleship of an experienced staff team, who are ready to catch, advise, repair, encourage and redirect. Each one leaves stronger and independent, with an ability to make decisions and act on them.

We are amazed, gratified and very proud of what our trainees have gone on to achieve.

Accommodation

Participants will be attached to the household of one of the permanent staff families. This will entail taking their share of the household chores and responsibilities, coming under the authority of the family head, and participating in the community life. He/she will probably share a room with another same-sex participant.

What is Forest Way?

Forest Way has been serving the Eastern Cape Border community since 1997 with many thousands of youth and adults passing through. We believe it is the leading outdoor centre in the Eastern Cape. Probably much further a-field as well.



That's because the staff seek to serve God, hear him daily, and live out a life-style that speaks of the God Almighty.

Majoring in and seeking excellence in outdoor and adventure education with a purpose and direction, Forest Way seeks to know Jesus and make him known, leading each into a deeper relationship with Him. And that leads to an adventure of its own!

It is staffed by ordinary people; permanent families and short-termers who live out a lifestyle that speaks of life in the Almighty, using the platform of Christian community living to reach out to the local community and the groups who come on site for the extremely popular programmes.

Forest Way is situated on the edge of the magnificent Kologha Forest Reserve, in the Eastern Cape's Amatola Mountains. With its emphasis on people contact and the generation of significant experiences, Forest Way attracts in excess of 3000 campers a year in 70+ camps, increasing annually.



Cost



The fees are intended to cover most of the direct living and training expenses only. Included are training expenses, food & lodging, and other sundry items related to life on site. There are no supplements to cover others' expenses. With the exception of January, the fee includes an allowance for discretionary expenses made on site (telephone calls, tuck-shop spending, personal travel, etc), the balance of which is paid to the participant after the relevant deductions each month. With care, the balance ought to be sufficient for personal toiletries, personal gifts, special occasions, etc.

The fees for the 2009 year are R33 800. This is paid by a R5000 initial deposit followed by 12 monthly payments of R2400 each starting in January, The first payment is due 1 January 2009. Please arrange before arrival how this will be paid. A monthly stop order or automated electronic transfer will avoid slip-ups. This should be paid in advance into the Forest Way account on the first business day of the month. Account details are: Standard Bank, Stutterheim 051-001, Account 28 074 0417 "Forest Way". Reference with "COLT" and your surname.



Requirements for COLT

The main requirement is a desire to serve God, to seek and live out in his will.

This is not a programme for the half-hearted!

The successful candidate will most likely:

- ❖ have recently completed his/her schooling,
- ❖ be an active member of an evangelical church,
- ❖ have an eagerness to learn and gain (many!) new experiences,
- ❖ enjoy the outdoors, and
- ❖ possibly come with some existing leadership and responsibility experiences.

Unsure? Inquire about a no-cost look-see on site.

The commitment

- ❖ To commit to the full year. The training period usually starts on the second week of January (12 January in 2009) and extends to mid December (19 December in 2009). A week is given off mid-year, with other long weekends and periods as determined by the Centre calendar. Should the candidate be invited to join junior staff or stay on as a supported volunteer, 3 weeks accumulated leave immediately comes into effect.
- ❖ To pay for the full year's training and living costs. This is payable monthly in advance. Certificates and references will not be given and training will cease should the payments fall into arrears. Adjustments to the training programme can be made should there be financial difficulties, but advance discussion with the Director is essential.
- ❖ To commit into a local church body. This entails more than attendance, but rather a whole-hearted participation in the life of the particular body. The trainee will however remain connected to his/her home church, and his/her current pastor's support is a requirement.





How do I apply?

1. Perhaps you have some more questions. Phone the Centre Director and ask away!
2. Ask Jesus what you should do.
3. Ask for an **Application** form. This has sections relevant for your parents and your pastor. We will also ask for some references.
4. Complete and fax/e-mail it in.
5. Make a visit to the Centre for a "look-see" to join in an event, meet staff and have an interview.
6. ...?!

What past trainees have said:

- ❖ "A wonderful working experience ... had the help of a great staff team"
- ❖ "a roller-coaster ride of new experiences and training ... the best times of all"
- ❖ "I have seen the Lord do miracles in front of me"

Forest Way Outdoor Outreach

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Association Incorporated under section 21 (non-profit)

Xolora Outdoor Learning Opportunities
Co. Reg. No.: 1997/016270/08