



## FAQs

# Gundrys Farm Campsite, BH21 6RU

Here is a list of FAQs about Shine Camp. If you need further information, please email [camp@shinecancersupport.org](mailto:camp@shinecancersupport.org)

### **Has Shine done this before?**

Yes! This is our 9<sup>th</sup> year of Shine Camp but it will be the first for lots of people. By popular demand, this year we are also holding a '**best decorated tent**' competition – no pressure to take part at all (it can be hard enough getting a tent up!) but if you have a drawer full of bunting, now is the time to get it out!

### **What if I don't know anyone?**

Please don't worry! There will be people there who don't know each other and the vibe is really friendly – take a look at the comments from previous years and see what others had to say.

### **Can I just come for part of it?**

Of course! You can arrive any time from 12 noon on Friday and can camp on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights or any combination of nights. You can also just come along for the afternoon and evening of the Saturday when we do a big group meal.

### **Where is it and how do I get there?**

We are at a new site this year. It is a private field attached to a larger campsite with full campsite facilities. It is near to the New Forest National Park and Moors Valley Park, as well as being a short drive from Dorset's beaches and towns.

We can arrange to collect people taking public transport, the closest is by National Express coach to Ringwood. If you don't drive, get in touch and we'll see what we can work out to help. Otherwise, connect with other Shine campers online and see if you can get a lift!

### **What's the programme?**

There isn't one! The weekend is just a fun, laid back chance to get away for a few days with other Shine people and their families. There will be organised activities that you can get involved in IF you want to. Last year, we hosted a pub quiz, afternoon tea and a talent show along with a trip off site to the local water park.

We tend to have meals together in the evenings and share a bit of brekkie if you are up when the food is being cooked. If you want to go out and about with your family and just sleep at camp that's fine. Or if you fancy hanging around with others, popping out for a bit of sightseeing or a trip to the beach, you'll find plenty of people to join you.

### **What do I do about food and drink?**

On the Friday, after pitching your tent, we will have a shared 'bring along' supper. This is type of make shift buffet with all sorts of bits and pieces. If you can bake and cook, great! If not, just pop to the shop on your way and pick something up that we can share....experience says we always have too much food and somehow we manage to get a good mixture of food without dividing up shopping lists!

Breakfast bacon butties and egg sandwiches are generally cooked up by volunteers in the morning (please feel free to help out!) but bring whatever you like to eat if you don't fancy getting involved (we will ask for cooking and washing up volunteers too!).

Saturday evening is the main group meal that we provide so you don't need to bring anything for Saturday night unless you have particular dietary requirements (we cater for any requirements but do need to know when you book).

Sunday night is up to you! We may have leftovers from the rest of the weekend but we won't be organising a group meal.

Overall, there will be plenty of food, but you should bring along anything particular that you want to eat and snacks etc. to keep you going throughout the day if you are staying on-site. There is a small shop on the campsite and supermarkets are not too far away... **there are no fridge facilities** so please don't bring lots of perishable food.

As for drinks, it is 'bring your own'! Bring whatever you like to drink and plenty of it! There will be camp kettles, coffee and tea but please bring along bottled water and your own cups/plates etc.

### **What about toilets & showers?**

This site has shower and toilet blocks within our private field which are solely for our use. The showers have private cubicles and a communal changing area so don't forget a robe if you're shy! (male and female are separate!)

They are partially accessible so please get in touch if you have any mobility issues and we can work out if they are suitable for you.

### **I don't have a tent!**

We have some spares! Let us know as soon as possible if you would like to borrow any equipment or tents etc...it is first come, first served. However, it is pretty cheap these days to pick up a camping set which includes tent and sleeping bags and anything else you might need from Tesco, ASDA or Argos.

### **What other things should I bring?**

Chairs, plates, cups and cutlery are a must!

Torches, sleeping bags and your tent (of course!) are the basics but if you have never been camping before, Google 'camping kit list' for lots of ideas.

### **How much is it?**

The cost is £25 for the whole weekend for you and £25 for the first adult you bring along. Your children (aged up to and including 17) are free.

Shine camp is heavily subsidised by the charity funds that we raise throughout the year. The true cost is much higher than the £25 charged for Shine people and their first friend or partner.

We have a small number of bursaries available if you are out of work or struggling to come along. Please email us for more details – we really want everyone to be able to join in! We may be able to help with your travel costs, just ask.

**Can I bring more than one friend?**

The idea of Shine camp is to provide a relaxing break among people that share your experiences, so bringing loads of your own friends may stop you from joining in with other Shine members. If you'd like to bring any extra friends or family, please email us first and we will see how many spaces we have, obviously Shine members and their first adult and family get priority on spaces. Any additional adults cost £50 and their children £25 for the weekend.

**Can I bring my Campervan/Caravan?**

Campervans and caravans are welcome!

**Is there electric hook up?**

There are a limited number of electric hook up points around the site, they are chargeable at £2 per night, which is in addition to the weekend charges. These must be booked in advance so make sure we know you want one.

**Can I bring my dog?**

There are a limited number of dogs allowed and they need to be on a short lead at all times on the campsite. There are plenty of fields nearby for walkies! Please check with Emma if you need to bring your dog along.

**And what about the kids?**

Children of all ages are welcome. There will be a mixture of ages from toddlers to teenagers so there will probably be people for them to make friends with. There is plenty of space for kites, footballs and anything else so bring along whatever games you like.

**What if it rains?**

Ok...so this may be the south coast but it does still rain. We have hired a large marquee so we will have communal dry space - but other than that we'll try not to let it stop us having fun!

**I'd love to come but I really can't camp!**

If you can't camp, there are a few other options. You could hire a campervan for the weekend or even look at accommodation nearby. It is a popular tourist destination so there are plenty of hotels and B&B's not too far from the campsite.

**OK - I'm sold! I'm definitely coming!**

Great news! We can't wait either!

You just need to complete this online form: [FORM](#) and Emma will email you to confirm there's space!

**How do I pay?**

Once your booking is confirmed, you can pay by making a bank transfer or PayPal (charges apply) - full details will be sent to you once confirmed.

**Want more information?**

Take a look at our blogs and email [camp@shinecancersupport.org](mailto:camp@shinecancersupport.org) with any questions!

<https://shinecancersupport.wordpress.com/2016/08/18/shine-camp-2016-one-campers-story/>

<https://shinecancersupport.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/the-biggest-shine-camp-yet/>

## Comments from previous campers

**Tiani (11)** - We all really liked this trip. It was very fun! It was very good for adults and children. The people are lovely and very friendly, I can't wait to come back next year!

**Alison** - This is our first Shine Camp and first Shine event so on arriving we knew no-one other than a few emails with Emma. I was a little anxious arriving with a 5 year old son, not knowing how many children he would have to play with or whether the group would be friendly. All my fears melted away with the friendly greeting on arrival and before we had put the tent up my boy was off playing with new friends. There is a great communal atmosphere and I have made good friends. Can't wait til next year! Thanks Emma and Shine for such a fantastic event, your hard work is much appreciated.

**Anonymous** - This was our first Shine camping experience. If I'm honest I had my reservations, mainly the thought that it was going to be quite depressing but everyone here is so upbeat and positive it made it so much easier to talk about my mums diagnosis. If anything it has taken a load off my chest. So much fun, everyone is very approachable and easy to talk to. All in all a fantastic weekend.

**Charlotte & Neil** - Thank you Emma for a fantastic weekend, you have done a great job organising everything (especially cooking all those burgers!) Having only found out about Shine a couple of months ago, Neil and I have been really impressed with the friendliness of everyone. I have managed to go to a few Shine events to meet some new faces and share experiences, but was still a little nervous about pitching up a tent in the middle of a field with strangers! However, everyone has been wonderful and chatty and Emma has made sure everyone has felt so welcome. I have survived my weekend with lack of showers but am grateful for the portaloos! I have liked having shared dinners and BBQs together as well as having time to do your own thing. Neil and I will be coming back again!

**Lesley** - ...what really made it so wonderful was the fantastic people. Feels like we've known everyone for ages. My girls made some great new friends and we've all laughed and had so much fun.

**Abigail & Georgie (Lesley's daughters)** - I was a bit scared about coming but people were really kind. I made some good friends and it was nice to talk to people who have been through the same situation as me. I can't wait until next year and hope I can see everyone again :) I was really nervous about coming because I didn't know anyone but I have made some really good friends, thanks.

**Magda, Jack and Daniel (2)**-Shine camp was fantastic. A beautiful place, beautiful people. It was our first Shine Camp but definitely not last!