

Volunteering at festivals packing list

And

Survival tips summary



PACKING LST

Tent

Sleeping	Sleeping bag
	Fleece liner
	Airbed
	Eye mask/ ear plugs
Waterproofs	Water proof trousers x 2 (shell and fleece lined)
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	Water proof socks x 2
Clothes	Hat (sun and fleece)/scarf/Gloves
	1 change of clothing in case it rains (2 types of each layer – 1 to wear 1 to pack)
	Swim suit (for beach location and possible communal showers)
	Underwear – lots of dry socks
	Hiking Boots (for muddy paths and by tap)
	Flip flops/water shoes for shower
	Sunglasses
Food	Pot Noodles/Pot porridge/pot rice/ nuts/nut bars/snickers/wraps/cheese/pickle/ Alcohol
	Water bottle/ cup with lid (for coffee/booze)
Tech	Head torch
	Battery pack for between phone charges
	Phone/charger
Toiletries	Wet wipes/loo roll
	Sun cream
	Non aerosol deodorant
	Meds – in original packets
Misc	Small thin towel (for quicker drying)
	A4 sized bag for area entry/ and snacks for shift
	Cards/book for down time
	ID for accreditation
	Dry bags/plastic bags – to separate wet from dry stuff and protect tent contents from leaks

Top survival tips summary

HOW IT WORKS	
1 – Priority booking	If you volunteer at 2 festivals in one season you get “priority booking” for next year and are in with a chance of nabbing a stewarding spot a the holy grail of festivals, Glastonbury.
2. Time off work	Some employers even give you paid time of your day job for charity work.
3. VIP campers	The VIP camping fields are like Nirvana – flushing loos, banks of sparkly clean sinks and mirrors, a covered canopy areas with benches, air stream coffee vans and 24 hour security. Park your child here if they don’t want to stay with you and you want to protect them from the mele of the general camping fields.
PRACTICALITIES	
4. Food on shift	You are encouraged to bring Pot Noodles for on shift snacking, but after 2 shifts with no sign of a kettle or the tea van I learned to move on to already hydrated packet rice.
5. Choosing tent pitch	Pitch your tent as far from the marquee as you can.
6. Remember your lanyard	Don’t forget your lanyard on your loo trip or you won’t be allowed back into the Oxfield.
7. Shower shoes	Take flip flops or even water shoes for your journey to the tent.
8. Swim suit?	There is talk of communal showers at some festivals so the Oxfam advice is to take a swim suit just in case.
9. Loo roll	Loo roll and sanitiser are replenished sporadically – so worth brining emergency supplies.
10. Pack wisely	See list above.
PREARRIVAL	
11 -Whatsapp	Join Whatsapp and follow on FB for everything you need to know – from how to deflate a self inflating airbed to bagging extra early bird shifts
TRAVEL TO FESTIVAL	
12. Book a direct train and a seat	If arriving by train, choose a direct train if at all possible. And book a seat, on every leg if more than one. Extracting your luggage from under that of 10 other people and running with it over bridges to catch connections is hard work. Locating new / empty luggage racks on your second and third train becomes nigh on impossible as the trickle of people heading in the festival direction concentrates into a flood.
13. Save money with an advance single	Book a cheaper advance single ticket for your return from Boardmasters as there is no flexibility in reality.
14. Check you can pick up your pack	Pick up all bags the night before and discard more items until the pack can be lifted from the floor without injury. My 3 litre wine box, packed in the middle of the bag, would have been binned had I had the time to repack.

ARRIVAL	
15. Look for the staff bus	There is a staff bus from the station which takes you to White Camp – from where it is only a 10 minute walk to the Oxfam camping fields.
16. Find the Oxfam accreditation	Locate the correct accreditation area. We stood for some time in the general line before working out we had joined the a general staff booking station not the Oxfam one.
THE SETTING	
17. Camp children away from arena	If you have teens and they are not in the VIP area, the general rule is the closer the site is to the arena, the more mayhem ensues. For offspring attending the main campsites, direct them to camp as far from the arena as possible to save them from the worst of potential trouble.
18. Skip the ferry queue	There is a second ferry from Green Gate into town, open to everyone. This is free so very popular. Staff can go straight to the front showing their wrist band
19. Shift recce	Do a recce of the location of your next shift the night before. The sites are huge and you need to work out where you are going and how long it is going to take you (rarely less than 30 minutes).
20. Staff ferry	Never walk when you can get the ferry. An 8 hour shift is hard enough on the legs without an hour long walk at each end. The staff party ferry is a festival highlight.
21. End of set tactics	Watching a headliner on a day off, if the crowd is not moving towards your exit when the set ends it can be tricky to fight the human tide. We left before the end of the set to avoid being swept out into the human sea.
EXITING THE FESTIVAL	
22. Leave early	Leave early to have a march on the crowds and a train seat with your name on it.