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Woburn Forest staff training begins

With less than 200 days until Woburn Forest welcomes its first guests, Center Parcs has already started a programme to train its staff for the new village. With 47 colleagues already recruited, 90% of whom living less than 15 miles away, the campaign to find a further 1,453 staff is well underway with inductions and training starting this month.

The most recent training session for Woburn Forest staff took place on

16th and 17th of September. Twelve new starters, 9 of whom were new Housekeeping staff, attended the training which was held in the The Forest Centre at Marston Moretaine, just 3 miles from the Woburn Forest site.

“The Forest Centre was the ideal choice for training to take place” said Tracy Walker, Center Parcs Training and Development Manager, *“Not only is it local but the Centre has a similar environment to Center Parcs to help our new colleagues familiarise themselves. We also have an existing relationship with the Centre through the funding of the planting of more than 30,000 trees this year.”*

Fifty Woburn Forest colleagues will undergo training during September with the remaining staff, once recruited, being trained before March 2014. The training programme is an impressive one, with inductions and introductory training as well as a variety of specialist training.

Tracy added *“We have more than 450 different training courses available and we are unique in the development of our teams. As part of the Woburn Forest training plan we have 60 induction programmes planned as well as more than 300 other courses before we open. From First Aid to massage training, our training will cover all the skills required for the 160 different roles at Woburn Forest.”*

Rob Sanders from Hertfordshire joined Center Parcs Woburn Forest as Training Manager from Easy Jet where he built up a wealth of experience. With his Woburn Forest Training team and a core team of trainers from our existing villages, he will be managing the training programme.

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Notes to Editors

1. Center Parcs has five Villages across the UK; Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, Elveden Forest in Suffolk, Longleat Forest in Wiltshire, Whinfell Forest in Cumbria and Woburn Forest in Bedfordshire which opened to guests on 6 June 2014
2. As the leader in the UK short break holiday market, Center Parcs regularly achieves average annual occupancy in excess of 97%
3. Center Parcs offers weekend, (Friday to Monday) or midweek (Monday to Friday) breaks and welcomes over 1.7 million guests each year, with 96% of guests expressing an intention to return

4. The Center Parcs concept is to provide a range of high quality accommodation, shops, restaurants and exceptional leisure facilities, carefully nestled amongst 400 acres of protected forest environment
5. This concept originated in Holland in 1967, with the first UK Center Parcs opening in 1987. Center Parcs is now a separate entity in the UK, owned by The Blackstone Group
6. Center Parcs has been awarded the following accolades since 2008: the Green Business Award for Biodiversity Protection, Visit Britain 5 Star Rating, Hospitality Assured, Biodiversity Benchmark - Land Management, Carbon Trust Standard, Good Spa Guide Award, ISO14001, Investors in People
7. Center Parcs has recently been announced '[Best Family Holiday Provider](#)' in the Tommy's Awards for the eleventh year in a row

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