

# Stewarding: Night Team

Age: 18+,

Shifts: Midnight to 8am

## A Night in the Life of a Night Team Steward.

I love being on Night Team. It feels pretty unique to be awake when other people are in bed and to have responsibility for the whole site, and being out at night is often really peaceful.

We start each shift at midnight, though we usually gather from about 11.30pm for a pre-shift hot drink, snack and catch-up from the day team. The early part of the night is always spent ensuring that venues are securely locked.

After that, we start encouraging people to return to their villages and go to bed. We're always nice, but it's important that everyone on site sticks to the 'Silent Hours' because it's almost impossible to sleep in a tent if other people are being noisy.

Sometimes, small groups of people want to hang around into the early hours, so we'll probably just stop for a brief chat and encourage them to return quietly to their villages. Occasionally, we have to find missing people; you can imagine how problematic that is in the dark, and it is one of the reasons it is helpful to have people back in their villages so we are not getting distracted by others.

Patrolling takes up a lot of the rest of the night. We go out in pairs, ensure everything is peaceful, respond to emergencies, and prayer-walk the site. Sometimes, we have to escort people who have got lost back to their villages – the site looks very different at night, and it's easy to lose your bearings.

We all have a two-way radio and stay in touch with each other and Control throughout the shift. Sometimes, we must deal with inclement weather (this is New Wine, after all!), but the most common night-time emergency is a medical problem, and there's always a medic on call if they are needed. Other key people are on call for other situations, and our team leader will always get those people out of bed if needed.

Between patrols, we return to Control and our Steward Crew Room, where there are plenty of snacks and soft drinks. We also stop to eat a meal together in the early hours.

By 5 am, the sun is up, and the early morning joggers are on the move. Soon after, young children wake up their parents; people start heading for the showers, venue leaders appear in Control to collect their radios and keys, the early morning Bible study begins, and the stewarding day team wander through for breakfast.

The site gradually comes back to life. We'll still be out, watching the site, and occasionally get offered a breakfast!

By 8 am, we will head for breakfast (which for us is a late tea!), socialise together, maybe catch a worship or teaching session, then head to our bunkabins for a good sleep. We'll often be up in time for the evening meeting and some of the events put on before it all starts again.