

EMEYF Spring Gathering Planning Committee member

The annual Spring Gathering is the highlight of the spiritual life and the community of EMEYF each year. It is a week long event, happening somewhere in Europe around Eastertime, nurturing Young Friends from the section both as individuals and as a community.

You can find a list of former locations and themes at www.emeyf.org/node/18

The location of EMEYF Spring Gathering is usually chosen by Annual Meeting or Spring Gathering, 1,5 or 1 year in advance. EMEYF then appoints around 4 members to serve on the planning committee for this event. The Planning Committee should consist both of experienced and new EMEYFers, and allows individuals to offer their skills and ideas to the community, as well as to acquire new ones. It is a great job for people who are new to EMEYF, but wish to get involved. EMEYF tries to appoint Young Friends from different countries to work together.

The job of the planning committee involves finding a venue, a date and a theme, invite speakers or workshop facilitators, organising sessions and other activities, fundraising and budgeting and advertising the gathering. They are encouraged to explore the possibilities of a Spring Gathering and fill it with their ideas, supported by EMEYFs Gatherings Coordinator as well as by other roleholders like elders or treasurer, as needed.

Former roleholders tell: *“Being a part of a SG Planning Committee is a kickstart into a community: I found out what EMEYF means to me by organising a Spring Gathering. I especially enjoyed being able to shape the gathering around our ideas, being adventurous, but always supported. Sometimes it was challenging, especially in the two months before the event, when things can get stressfull – but the event itself was extremely rewarding. The work is organisational, but working on the theme and our idea of community is also spiritual and involves a lot of – sometimes hysterical – laughter.”*

last updated 4/2014, Esther Köhring