

When can I volunteer?

Days, evenings, weekends, whenever it suits you! From an hour a week to as many as you would like to do.

How much time do I have to give?

The amount of time required will depend on the organisation you are volunteering for and we will give you all the details before you are referred to them.

How long do I have to commit?

Each volunteering opportunity is different and will require different lengths of commitment. This can sometimes be due to training they are offering or building relationships with service users. For many opportunities the commitment is that if you can't manage to attend just please let them know so they can make alternative arrangements.

Do I get paid expenses?

Each organisation is different depending on their own policies, they may or may not cover travel, always ask when you attend your first meeting/chat with them.

Do I need any experience to volunteer?

No. While we value previous experience and qualifications, we want to make volunteering accessible to everyone. Some organisation will invest in training and supporting volunteers who have the personal qualities they are looking for.

How do you match me with an organisation?

You tell us what you would like to do, your interests and availability on your registration form. We will then invite you in for an informal chat and have a look at opportunities we have and you chose what you would like to do. Once you are matched, you will have an introductory meeting with the organisation to ensure that you are both happy.

Where does the volunteering take place?

Various locations depending on the opportunity you chose, but we can try and offer you something as local as possible if that is what you would like

When can I get started?

As soon as we can arrange a suitable match! Please be as flexible as possible in terms of when and where you can volunteer, to help us to find you the best possible match, as quickly as possible.

What do I get out of it?

Volunteers will get the opportunity to make a real positive difference to the community and the people using the service you are supporting. You will also gain valuable experience, learn new skills, meet new people, make friends and have fun.

Will it affect my benefits?

Volunteering should not affect your claim as volunteering is widely recognized as playing a key role on helping those looking for work gain valuable work experience. We would advise that you keep you job centre advisor informed.

Will I need a disclosure/PVG check?

Volunteers who come into contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults as part of their normal volunteering activity will be subject to a disclosure check. However, having a previous conviction may not prevent you from volunteering in general, and there are numerous opportunities where disclosures are not required.

Can I work towards an award?

Yes. Saltire Awards recognize the contribution of your volunteers on Scotland aged between 12 and 25. More information can be found at www.saltireaward.org.uk

South Ayrshire volunteer awards are also available for volunteers over the age of 25 who have made a large contribution to their community through volunteering.

Will I need to provide references?

Some organisations may ask for two referees as part of their recruitment process – this can be an employer, health professional, teacher or tutor etc, but not a member of your family.

What do I do next?

If, having read this information, you would like to apply to volunteer, please complete the registration form. We will contact you to invite in for an informal chat and have a look at the opportunities available that we can refer you to.

For further information please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to us in the postage paid envelope provided. Alternatively contact The Volunteering Team on 01292 432661 or email volunteering@voluntaryactionsouthayrshire.org.uk

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