



Frequently Asked Questions on Volunteering:

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Volunteering is an essential part of everything we do at Hampshire Cultural Trust. It can be a rewarding experience, but we recognise there may be many questions you may have on how you can get involved, what volunteering entails, whether training is included or if you're qualified enough.

The frequently asked questions below will help answer many of these queries.

Who can volunteer?

How old do I need to be to volunteer?

Normally our volunteers are 16+ with no upper age limit with limits of 18+ in some roles or opportunities. We can accept 2-week work experience placements in some of our venues from the age of 14. Volunteers who are volunteering under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian at all times can volunteer at any age.

I'm receiving benefits, am I allowed to volunteer?

Yes, but we suggest telling your Job Centre about the volunteering. For full details see the [Directgov website](#).

I live outside the UK, can I volunteer?

It's your responsibility to make sure you can volunteer while in the UK. In general, if you're from the European Union or European Economic Area you're able to volunteer. However, you should always check the conditions of your visa. If you have any doubts or questions, contact [UK Visas and Immigration](#).

I'm a refugee or asylum seeker, can I volunteer?

If you have refugee status or have exceptional leave to remain in the UK, then you're welcome to volunteer for HCT. Likewise, if you're an asylum seeker then you can also volunteer. If your final appeal is refused and you're denied leave to remain then you have to stop volunteering.

How does volunteering work?

How much time should I give?

In general, there's no minimum time volunteers must give, and we value flexibility. Some of our roles work best with a regular commitment, such as our "Venue Operations" opportunities. You can discuss commitments and flexibilities with your volunteer lead at the catch-up stage.

If you want full flexibility, dropping in and out of opportunities that interest you, you can always explore our "Volunteer Pool" or some of our remote opportunities.

Will I be paid?

Unfortunately, as a volunteer we are not able to compensate you for work done. We can however cover any exception pre-agreed expenses on a case-by-case basis. We can discuss these with you at the catch-up stage.

Is there training?

All volunteers receive a detailed local induction alongside mandatory learning focused on keeping you safe regardless of your role. Depending on your role you will then receive specialist local training to help you get the most from your volunteering with the support of our dedicated volunteer trainers and teams.

You will also be invited to our central HCT induction to learn more about the trust as well as a having access to the variety of courses, opportunities and learning offered internally - ranging from collections care to leadership skills.

Is there any support?

Our volunteers have a dedicated “volunteer lead” within each of our teams who will be on hand to offer any support and guidance needed. We additionally have a number of specialist volunteers who can offer support.

How will I be kept up to date on what’s going on?

As a volunteer you’ll get access to our regular trust wide update, “TrustNews” giving you key updates on everything that is going on. Locally you will also receive regular updates on opportunities and activities in your team.

Our Volunteer Voice Forum will also be a key chance to receive the latest from our leadership team whilst also giving you a chance to raise ideas, comments or feedback directly to the senior team at HCT.

Are volunteers rewarded and recognised?

Yes. Alongside our regular volunteer events ranging from behind-the-scenes tours to networking events and parties, volunteers also have access to a number of benefits to say thank you. These benefits can be seen on our volunteer page.

We also recognise how long volunteers work with us with both hours and length awards with physical awards. There is also opportunities to be recognised with our annual values awards.

Will I be insured?

HCT has insurance cover for legal liability claims, either by or against volunteers working for the Trust, resulting from damage to property or personal injury.

What opportunities are there for volunteers?

We have a variety of opportunities to use your skills and experience in our volunteering roles or develop new skills and knowledge. You’ll have the chance to network and make friends all whilst supporting to change lives through culture.

What happens next?

I want to volunteer, what do I do now?

Head to our volunteering page and explore the types of volunteering we have on offer, this could be regular volunteering, ad-hoc or in a specialist role. You can search our teams and find the one that looks right for you.

Once you've identified your volunteering opportunity simply follow the link to the team's application page and we'll be in touch to discuss with you.

Can groups get involved?

Groups are welcome to volunteer be that regularly or one-off. If you are interested in volunteering regularly simply search for and apply for the right opportunity for your group. If you are looking for one-off structured volunteering, check out our corporate volunteering packages for what's on offer.