



Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to support teams of sixteen year olds during our intensive summer programme.

These are passionate individuals with either some experience working with groups of young people or looking to develop that experience.

Volunteers will be role models for the young people and support them to be able to make the most of their activities and encourage as individuals and as a team of fifteen teenage participants led by a Team Leader through the summer programme. We are looking for volunteers who can commit to working with a team of 15 young people over each phase of the programme as set out below.

The phases include:

1. A week long residential (5 days, 4 nights) at the Dearne Valley Outdoor centre in S. Yorkshire
2. A week long residential (5 days, 4 nights) in your local area
3. A non-residential week (5 days) developing social action projects with your team

Programmes will begin in early July 2012 and be complete by the end of September 2012. The first three weeks are consecutive. There will be two cohorts of young people and volunteers will be able to express a preference for which cohort dates they are available for (see application form). Volunteers will be expected to attend a 1 day training programme that will be held on a weekend in April/May 2012.

About the UFA

The UFA is a national education charity committed to working in innovative and creative ways to enrich and extend learning for young people aged 5 to 25. Since its inception, the UFA has established partnerships with over 50 Local Authorities and clusters, worked with over 750,000 children and young people and trained over 6000 adults.

UFA provides young people with the opportunity to participate in and lead high quality experiences; delivered and supported by local adults who are trained to coach and nurture them to develop their leadership skills. Young people are also supported to become role models and leaders who plan, lead and evaluate learning activities for others in their communities. Through these activities we see young people's aspirations increase, they become more confident and have a better understanding of themselves and their relationships with others and develop a sense of responsibility and essential skills for life. Find out more by visiting www.ufa.org.uk

About the UFA Summer Challenge NCS Programme

We will bring together sixteen year olds from across the country and challenge them to connect with people from different backgrounds, learn key skills for the workplace, and make a difference in their community.

They will achieve this by completing a series of challenges:

Feel the Fear & Do it Anyway Challenge:

This is a full-time residential week away from home with a focus on teamwork and outdoor physical challenges at Kingswood Dearne Valley, S.Yorks <http://www.kingswood.co.uk/centres/dearne-valley/> Young people will work in socially mixed teams of young people bonding through a week of challenging activities mostly led by Kingswood staff. Volunteers will support the groups on their activities and make sure no one is left out. Provide encouragement when young people are faced with challenges that they may feel are hard to do. The Team Leaders will be responsible for facilitating reflection on the day's experiences and what team members have learned about themselves, teamwork and leadership.

People with Passions and Heroes from Home Challenge:

Teams return home for a further full time residential week **based in young people's home community, with a focus on developing new skills and serving groups in the community.**

Volunteers will support young people to participate and help the team to use a shared passion, for example for music or art, to build on their teamwork and project management skills and develop an interest in community service inspired by local role models.

'Big Plans' challenge

For the next consecutive week Young people design a social action project in consultation with the local community. This week is non-residential, but full time (Mon-Fri). In this phase, volunteers will support young people to design their social action project for the benefit of their community working alongside local people and representatives from local businesses, public services and charities. Teams will design a project that will deliver tangible benefit to the local community and agree a plan to deliver it in around 30 hours, including time spent at weekends and evenings if appropriate.

'Social Action Projects' Challenge

This is a period of **30 hours social action** on a part-time basis, during which the teams will deliver the project they designed in the previous challenge. Volunteers may want to hear about how the teams are doing but this is optional.

Celebration Event

At the end of their social action project we'll organise an event to encourage participants to get involved in ongoing social action or volunteering activities in their area and sign-post them to further opportunities. We'll also hold a large celebration and graduation event for participants and their guests.

Responsibilities of the Volunteer will include:

1. Attend a free 1 day training course, to be held at a weekend in April/May
2. Support the teams and individual young people as they participate in the programme,
3. Live with and support participants in residential activities in the first two weeks of the programme.
4. Support the Team leader with organisation of the activities.
5. Attend the celebration event in September - Optional

Volunteering options

There are 3 weeks of volunteering opportunities and you must be able to commit to the full week. You can also volunteer for a number of weeks. Please see the application form for options.

About You

Candidates must demonstrate the following skills and characteristics:

Essential:

- Have an interest or experience of working with young people.
- Have a belief in young people and in helping them take more active roles in their communities
- Rapport and empathy with young people
- Passion/interest in building stronger communities and seeing change in society
- Interested in young people's personal development
- A sense of humour

Beneficial:

- Experience of working in with youth or community organisations
- Experience in a residential youth environment (e.g., youth camp, scout camp, boarding school etc.)
- Experience of UFA activity/ethos

Further details

This is an excellent opportunity to work with a positive and vibrant team and to be involved in an exciting programme that has tangible results. Be part of a programme that creates memorable experiences for young people that could last a lifetime. The role is intensive but highly rewarding for the right individuals. It allows you to deepen your own leadership experience delivering high quality UFA programmes.

Why volunteer?

Volunteering to be part of UFA's NCS programme will be a rewarding and fun opportunity. It will also enable you to develop and evidence skills and give something back to your community. We will also provide you with a certificate and can provide references for future employers. The experience will provide great CV evidence even if you are not looking to work in a specific youth/education role in the future.

Expenses

- We can provide travel or travel expenses as appropriate for the phase of the programme you are volunteering for.
- On residential weeks all food and accommodation will be provided

For further information: Contact

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To apply: To see timing options and to apply for the role, please complete the attached application form. Phone interviews with successful applicants will take place during March 2012.

Download a copy of the application form from:

<http://www.ufa.org.uk/young-peoples-activities/national-citizen-service>

For further information: Contact

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