

Volunteering for a Kitchen Social hub

Thank you for considering becoming a Kitchen Social hub volunteer.

Your support is invaluable to local community organisations who often struggle with resources and the manpower to deliver a successful holiday provision.

We have a number of hubs that are actively looking for enthusiastic volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at a hub near you, please contact Miguel Gonzalez, Project Manager at the Mayor's Fund on mgonzalez@mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk.

In most cases, the hubs have given permission for you to contact them directly, so you can discuss what each of you want to get out of the experience.

A good volunteer placement should satisfy both parties, so before contacting them have a think about why you want to volunteer.

Things to consider

1. Safeguarding is paramount and volunteers will be expected to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The level of DBS required (standard check or enhanced check) will depend on your level of involvement with the clubs and the number of volunteering hours that you will be providing. For more information on DBS go to <https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>

A DBS application can be done online or through the volunteer hub. There is normally a small administrative fee attached to it which is up to £44 for an enhanced check. This amount maybe small but could be considerable for the hub you wish to volunteer for, especially if volunteer numbers are high. If you are a corporate volunteer you may wish to pay for this yourself.

Before applying for a DBS, please have a conversation with the hub of your choice to discuss the level of involvement and the number of hours / days you will be volunteering. Some DBS checks for volunteers are free; the hubs will be able to advise you on the best course of action.

2. Please note each hub will have a Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy which they will explain and you must adhere to.
3. Discuss the reasons why you want to volunteer with the hub. Some hubs will have their own volunteering policy and a set of role descriptions for their volunteers. Ask them if you can review the roles beforehand. If you have specific reasons that have motivated you to volunteer this should be discussed beforehand, as a role can be amended to suit your requests or a new role created if it's relevant. Spending time getting this right for both parties will ensure that you and the hub can get the most out of your time. Typical tasks will vary dependent on the hub but can include:
 - a. Organising a sporting activity
 - b. Organising a workshop / arts craft activity (especially if it's something interesting you do at work or as a hobby)
 - c. Help in the kitchen preparing food
 - d. A specific skills set that you think children and young people would enjoy

If the hub does not have a set of roles for volunteers, discuss your interest and skill-sets with them and decide upon a role before proceeding.

4. Build a relationship with the hub. If you are a corporate volunteer or someone with specific skill sets then you are likely to have expertise that they would benefit from, such as in marketing, fundraising, or networking. A lot of hubs would like someone they can call upon, for example, to help design a poster or seek advice on a new venture etc.

You may want to offer them a fixed number of days that you are available. A long term volunteering relationship is far more beneficial for all involved, and will no doubt be an enriching experience.