



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Volunteer/Member Role Description

Role: Youth Club / Youth Service Member

Our Youth Services

SVP runs a number of services focused on the personal, educational and social development of children and young people. We operate activity youth clubs, homework clubs, grinds clubs and youth services for teens. All of our youth services provide a safe, welcoming place for children and young people to learn and grow, to develop new skills, helping to build self-esteem and confidence and make friends.

Overview of the Volunteer Role

Our volunteers not only support the children and young people attending our youth services but they also support each other. This support means volunteers can share their learning in the role, and benefit from each other's experience, sharing knowledge and skills. Our volunteers support and deliver a quality programme to children and young people ensuring a standard level of safety and a fun environment. Our volunteers support the provision of services to children in local communities that aid and enhance the personal, educational and social development of children and young people.

Key Tasks & Responsibilities – (Further details provided for individual services)

1. Build positive relationships with the children and families who attend the service.
2. Take part in activities, spend time with the children and young people, and encourage them to participate
3. Share your skills and talents - Act as a mentor to the children and young people
4. Create a safe environment in which children and young people can thrive.
5. Role model positive behaviours.
6. Help plan and prepare activities
7. Uphold and adhere to SVP's policies and procedures and those procedures specific to your service.
8. Familiarise yourself with the Code of Conduct and adhere to this.
9. Ensure the protection and welfare of children attending the service by reporting any safeguarding concerns to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

Key Skills, Experience & Qualities - (Further details provided for individual services)

1. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with an ability to relate to children and young people from all walks of life.
2. A strong commitment and enthusiasm for working with children and an understanding of the challenges they face.
3. An ability to express empathy and treat children and young people's concerns with respect, sensitivity and tact.
4. Be a team player - Reliability, patience, resilience, and flexibility.
5. An openness to learning and developing further good practices to support children and young people.

Time Commitment

The minimum time commitment is 2 to 3 hours a week (*depending on each individual service/role*).

Induction & Training & Support

Volunteers will complete a comprehensive induction with a designated member of the Conference/service that will include reviewing the role description, volunteer agreement, the Code of Conduct, general operations of the group, health and safety information, and safeguarding procedures.



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Volunteers will also receive a Volunteer Handbook detailing the policies and procedures of their Service that they should familiarise themselves with.

Volunteers will also have to complete mandatory Child Protection Training prior to commencing.

Your Youth Service will provide direct support to you in your new role both formally and informally. There will be debriefs at the end of the night where you can discuss any issues that arose during club time. Other members of the Conference/service/team will also provide support on an ongoing basis during your time as a volunteer.

Key Requirements

1. Complete the SVP recruitment process which includes the application form, interviews, reference checks and Garda Vetting.
2. Complete the full mandatory induction training and undertake ongoing member development training and refresher training provided by the Society.
3. Complete Safeguarding Training as requested.
4. Adhere to the Society's ethos, mission statement, and policies and procedures.
5. Commitment to the safety and welfare of children through upholding children's rights.
6. Belief that the best interests of children and young people availing of SVP services are paramount.

Benefits

1. The opportunity to contribute positively towards the development of children and young people, enhancing their sense of self-worth and self-belief.
2. Personal and professional development in terms of confidence, patience, adaptability, leadership, communication, decision-making etc.
3. General happiness and satisfaction.
4. To make a difference in the lives of children and young people.
5. An opportunity to use and develop your own skills and talents.
6. An opportunity to develop friendships and meaningful relationships with like-minded peers

SVP's National Children & Family Services Manager can be contacted for any further information or support on 085-8766875.