

Volunteer Role Description

Group Support Volunteer

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Role title: Group Support Volunteer

Role description: You will support young people in a People & Planet Sixth Form campaigning group to help them develop the skills and knowledge to become effective campaigners. You will also build regional link with other Sixth Form and university groups in your area. You will do this by:

- Facilitating the formation of a Sixth Form group or supporting an existing group.
- Regularly attending meetings of the Sixth Form group in order to support facilitation, plan campaign strategy and actions and ensure the continuity of the group throughout the academic year
- Encouraging the group to take advantage of the support offered by People & Planet, such as booking workshops and attending regional training days and national events such as Shared Planet. You may be required to coordinate transport for events
- Communicating the views and needs of the group to the staff in the support office
- Liaising with your local Regional Rep and acting as a link between Sixth Form and university groups in your region

Accountable to: The Group Support Volunteer Coordinator

What is expected of a Sixth Form Group mentor?

This role will take up 2-4 days a month (time commitment will vary throughout the year). You will be expected to stay in phone and email contact with the P&P Group Support Volunteer Coordinator each fortnight and:

- Attend a training weekend in Oxford, June 27-28 or Sept 26-27 2009
- Make contact with schools in your area and encourage them to book a People & Planet workshop in the first couple of months in order to help get a group set up.
- Attend meetings of your Sixth Form group at least once a fortnight throughout and send brief minutes of each meeting to your support staff member.
- Ensure you inform your support staff member of actions carried out by the group and where possible ensure photos are taken of actions so we can publish them on the People & Planet website.
- Attend a mid-term review meeting with your support staff member in January/February 2010.
- Attend a review and debrief meeting in June 2010.
- Attend a meeting with your Regional Rep once a term to share knowledge and coordinate regional group activity.
- Attend Shared Planet 2009 (you will receive a free ticket) and the Forum 2010 with your group. Help the group with organising travel and logistics.
- General contact with other Group Support Volunteer via social networking to help provide a support forum.

What do Group Support Volunteers get out of the role?

- Full training in facilitation skills, campaign planning, how to start a campaigning group, creative campaigning skills and a comprehensive brief on the People & Planet network.
- The opportunity to take part in a volunteer accreditation scheme, highly regarded by employers, for your volunteer work as a Group Support Volunteer

- Experience of mentoring and supporting young people.
- Knowledge of Global Citizenship and the Global Dimension to the National Curriculum.
- Experience of volunteering with the leading student campaigning network in the UK focusing on poverty, human rights and the environment.
- All of your travel expenses covered, a free ticket to Shared Planet and a guaranteed place at the Summer Gathering.
- And most of all, the satisfaction of helping young people bring about positive change in their school or college.

How to apply:

If you would like to apply to be a Group Support Volunteer please download an application form from peopleandplanet.org/sixthforms/groupsupportvolunteers. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2009.

Suitable applicants will be contacted to arrange a discussion about the role and your volunteer's agreement.

Please note that attendance at the training weekend in June or September is a condition of acceptance on the scheme.

These posts will require that you undergo an enhanced CRB disclosure. All fees will be paid by People & Planet.

Person Specification:

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Experience of campaigning, either with People & Planet or another organisation
- Reliability and ability to commit the required amount of time **over the course of an entire academic year.**
- Ability to communicate and empathise with young people of sixth form age from diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to support and coach other young people, responding to their needs, without taking a leadership role, i.e. excellent facilitation skills.
- Commitment to meeting the expectations of a Group Support Volunteer (outlined above)

Desirable attributes:

- Experience of supporting/coaching others.
- Experience of facilitating meetings.
- Good knowledge of the issues on which People & Planet campaigns.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to have an informal chat about the role and what it involves.

Call or email Jamie Clarke on 01865 245678 or jamie.clarke@peopleandplanet.org