

## **Volunteering lead to tall ships and sails for Lee**

**Lee Spooner is a student at Washwood Heath Technical College in Birmingham. His commitment to sports volunteering is making a difference to other young people in his community, and has led to some unusual opportunities coming his way.**

Since September 2004, Lee has been heavily involved in a wide variety of sporting events and has progressed to a very high standard. With the support of his college, Lee has completed over 200 voluntary hours in 6 months, and was invited to attend the 4-day Youth Sport Trust Conference, held at Loughborough University.

Lee is a member of a team of sports volunteers helping to support sports and outdoor activities for young people. He helped deliver a camping weekend for Year 7 pupils (11-12 year olds), and he also teaches dance to other young people. As a result of his commitment to volunteering, Lee was selected to participate in a residential week with the Jubilee Sailing Trust, on the Lord Nelson tall ship. He has also got involved in fundraising, and has raised £2,000 by competing in events, which included the popular Birmingham Walkathon.

“Volunteering is fun,” says Lee. “My experiences have been educational and really enjoyable. Volunteering has helped me to improve my skills in various sports and I have been helping other young people find something positive to do.”

Lee is keen to put his sports skills to good use by volunteering to help at a range of events. Along with hundreds of other volunteers he helped out at the 2005 International Children's Games, held on 6 -11 July, in Coventry. With over 2,000 competitors, officials and delegates spanning 50 nations and five continents, the 2005 games celebrated Coventry's commitment to peace, reconciliation and internationalism.

Lee's tutors are impressed with his commitment and potential, and the way he gives 100% to his volunteering and helps others enjoy sport as much as he does.

**END**