



YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER 2005

Definition of Volunteers

Volunteering in sport is defined as individual volunteers helping others in sport and receiving either no remuneration or only expenses. This includes those volunteering for organisations (formal volunteers) and those helping others in sport, but not through organisations (informal volunteers).

Aims of The Year

- Increase the number of volunteers, particularly from marginalised groups, and young people in those groups
- Open more volunteering opportunities in the public and voluntary sector
- Raise the profile of the work volunteers are doing nationwide
- Thank volunteers everywhere for their time and commitment.

Sport Volunteering - The Facts

- Over 5 million volunteers contribute to sport in England
- Over 1 billion hours of sports volunteering contributed each year
- Volunteers help sustain over 100,000 affiliated clubs, with over 8 million members.

Key Features of Sport Month (August)

- 'What's Your Passion?' should give recognition to the wide range of volunteering opportunities within the sport sector
- Sport Month should endeavour to thank existing volunteers and engage with those who are new to sports volunteering.

Volunteering – the statistics...

The sporting sector makes the single biggest contribution to total volunteering in England – with 26% of volunteers citing sport as their main area of interest. They contribute one billion hours a year to sport. Sports volunteers are an integral part of the voluntary sector!

- 5,821,400 volunteers contribute to sport in England. (Sports Volunteering in England 2002, Sport England)
- 1,209,566,500 hours of sports volunteering in the year, which equates to 720,000 additional full-time equivalent, paid workers in sport. (Sports Volunteering in England 2002, Sport England)
- Sports volunteers help to sustain over 106,400 affiliated clubs in England, serving over 8 million members. (Sports Volunteering in England 2002, Sport England)
- In terms of the activities that young volunteers are engaged in, sports and exercise leads, attracting 44 per cent, the largest percentage across the age range, 18 – 24. (The 1997 National Survey of Volunteering. Institute of Volunteering Research, 1998)
- Sports and ICT have been found to be particularly effective in engaging young men and more disaffected young people (Home Office, 2003)
- Positive Futures, has built on pioneering projects carried out by NACRO and engaged nearly 35,000 of the most vulnerable and at risk young people, aged 10-19, in its sports initiatives (Home Office, 2003 and 2004)
- People who reported participating in formal volunteering once a month in the 12 months before interview were most likely to have been working in sports and exercise (43%) (2003 Citizenship Survey)

Sport England Policy

Sport England is committed to working with partners to ensure that strategic investment into the volunteer workforce is carried out in a coordinated strategic manner. Sport England has established the National Strategic Partnership for Volunteers in Sport to provide a single strategic voice to drive forward, promote and develop volunteering in sport and the wider voluntary sector. The sports partnership feeds directly into the England Volunteer Development Council engaging both with government and opposition parties in order to capture the collective intelligence of volunteer-involving organisations, volunteering infrastructure providers and of volunteers to provide a powerful, coordinated lobby to steer government policy and community action.

2012

Volunteers are essential for the successful running of the Olympics and integral to the London bid to host the Games in 2012. Not only could the London Games simply not be held without the input of an estimated 70,000 volunteers, fulfilling a vast array of essential tasks, from spectator services to translation facilities and first aid care; but the very presence of a huge army of committed, unpaid workers will contribute directly to the fulfilment of key aspects of the Olympic ideal. The volunteers recruited for the London Games will help to ensure that the games are 'owned' by the local community.

Step into Sport

The 'Step into Sport', (DCMS funded) leadership and volunteering project has been designed to establish a simple framework of co-ordinated opportunities at a local level, that enable young people and adults to begin and sustain an involvement in leadership and volunteering through Sport. Sport England manages the £8m project (through to 2008) in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust and Sports Leaders UK.

Support and Resources

- Sport England has just produced a new booklet with Volunteering England showcasing examples of good practice 'Young Volunteers: Making a Difference to Sport in England. See www.sportengland.org or call the Running Sport line for a copy - 0207 404 2224.
- Running Sport is Sport England's club development programme of workshops & resources. It is designed to help sports clubs and sports volunteers run their clubs as effectively as possible by addressing key issues such as volunteer management, club finances and development planning and Running Sport workshops:-
 - Volunteer Management
 - Funding & Promoting Your Club
 - Developing Sporting Partnerships & Junior Clubs
 - A Club For All
 - Sports Development Planning
 - Sports Facility Development
- Sport England: www.sportengland.org
- Step into Sport:
- Running Sport: Tel: 0207 404 2224 email: runningsport@coachwise/ltd/uk
- Volunteering England: www.volunteeringengland.org
- Year of the Volunteer: www.yearofthevolunteer.org
- Do-it: www.do-it.org
- CSV (Community Service Volunteers) www.csv.org.uk