



Let's Talk - Engaging Young People in Volunteering

Before You Engage Young People in Volunteering – Reflective Considerations

Before you begin involving young people in your volunteer programme, take time to reflect — ideally with your team — on what it means to create a supportive and meaningful experience for them.

Young people, like all volunteers, need guidance and encouragement. In many cases, they may require a little extra time and attention to help them feel confident and capable in their role.

This could be their **first experience in a work-like environment**, and how you introduce expectations can make a big difference. It's important to communicate clearly without overwhelming or undermining them. The goal is to build trust, offer reassurance, and help them succeed.

Questions to Consider:

- Why do we want to involve young people in our organisation?
 - What are our core reasons for wanting to engage young people?
 - How does youth volunteering support our mission and strategic goals?
- What support systems do we have in place to help them feel welcome and prepared?
 - Are our staff and volunteers ready to mentor and guide young people?
- How will we communicate expectations in a way that builds confidence?
- What adjustments might we need to make to ensure roles are youth-friendly?
- How will we create a safe space for questions, feedback, and learning?

Why young people matter: Discover the unique value they bring to your organisation and the transformative impact volunteering can have on their lives.

Learn how youth engagement can energise your programs, build community connections, and foster future leaders.

Energising Your Programmes

1. **Fresh Perspectives & Creativity.** Young people often bring new ideas, tech-savvy skills, and creative approaches to problem-solving that can refresh and modernise your existing programmes.
2. **Increased Visibility & Reach.** Youth volunteers are active on social media and can help amplify your organisation's message, attracting more attention and engagement from their peers.
3. **Boosting Team Morale.** Their enthusiasm and energy can uplift staff and other volunteers, creating a more dynamic and motivated environment.



Building Community Connections

1. **Bridging Generational Gaps.** Youth engagement fosters intergenerational collaboration, helping build understanding and empathy across age groups.
2. **Strengthening Local Networks.** Partnering with schools, colleges, and youth groups opens up new community connections and opportunities for collaboration.
3. **Creating Inclusive Spaces.** Involving young people signals that your organisation values diversity and inclusion, making it more welcoming to all.

Fostering Future Leaders

1. **Skill Development & Confidence Building.** Volunteering helps young people develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills that prepare them for future roles.
2. **Mentorship Opportunities.** Pairing youth with experienced volunteers or staff creates a supportive learning environment and encourages growth.
3. **Pathways to Employment & Civic Engagement.** Volunteering can be a stepping stone to careers in the voluntary sector or public service, and helps young people become active, engaged citizens.

Making it easy: Explore practical ways to streamline the process for staff and volunteers, ensuring a smooth and rewarding experience for everyone.

1. **Clear Role Descriptions.** Creating clear, detailed role descriptions helps volunteers understand expectations and responsibilities from the start.
2. **Flexible Scheduling.** Offering flexible scheduling options increases volunteer participation by accommodating diverse time commitments.
3. **Simplified Onboarding.** Easy and engaging onboarding procedures ensure volunteers quickly feel welcomed and prepared for their roles.
4. **Hands-on Role Redesign.** Practical exercises encourage redesigning volunteer roles to better suit youth interests and abilities.

Support from CVA Volunteer Centre: Find out how we can help you recruit, retain, and empower young volunteers with tailored resources and guidance.