



Essential Life Skills Volunteer

(14+ years old)

Job Description and Person Specification



The Project

We have identified through our work with the Scarborough Pledge that young people within certain areas do not access the arts and culture in out of school provisions. Sustained engagement with arts and cultural activity has the potential to broaden horizons, increase life chances, improve social wellbeing and enable young people to think critically and in a new way. The performing arts are also a highly effective way of building confidence and self-esteem. By providing an out of school programme in the 9 schools within the Opportunity Area, children will participate in activities which engage and challenge them, thus contributing to increased social mobility and enabling families and young people to participate in positive activity, based in their local community.

We have identified 9 schools in our area and aim to open up an out of school 'life skills' club for young people, using a variety of accessible theatre/ art/ media techniques. The club will be known as, **SJT Creation Studios**. The club is free for young people to take part in and will be available for 8-11 year olds.

The schools identified to act as venues are:

1. Barrowcliff
2. Braeburn
3. East Whitby
4. Filey Juniors
5. Friarage
6. Gladstone Rd
7. Northstead
8. Overdale
9. Wheatcroft

- 1) This club will build upon existing successful provision delivered in partnership with schools and the Children's University (After Schools Club) and will include sessions which provide tasters of different art forms. Street dance, drumming, drama, film making, singing etc. all framed around relevant stories and the positive attributes of the community in which they live – we will unearth local champions and heroes, stories of significance, something that holds a mirror up to what is great about the place in which they live. This will be driven by two key pastoral staff who will work with the young people throughout the project to ensure consistency.
- 2) In each area the young people will vote on the two skills (after taster sessions across all art forms) where they want their focus to be. This means that the young people get a choice in what pathway their club takes, they will own its direction. An example of this could be a group who have selected Drama, who will receive one term of sessions, culminating in a short presentation to family and friends. This allows the community to become involved and start discussing what their young people are doing as well as celebrating and highlighting positive local messages.
- 3) The next term a different art form will be focused on. By the end of the year, there will be 2 terms worth of concentrated work which we will help the young people to showcase in their own communities, this could be by an invited audience or by becoming part of an installation in their community. *(eg. A flashmob in their community one Saturday afternoon for example or could just be the sharing of a skill that they have learnt with someone else in their community, it depends upon the young person, this is about individual goals and achievements and how to embed the life skills that they have learnt into their everyday lives.)*

Job Description:

As a volunteer, you will support the Artist Practitioner in the smooth running of the club, along with your colleagues. Each club will be supported by two pastoral staff members, one adult volunteer (aged 20+) and three young people volunteers (aged 14+). The clubs will cover a range of artistic practice, which are yet to be confirmed. Possible activities could include drama, dance, music, comedy, singing, mask making and film making.

Duties will include:

- Helping to set up the room and equipment ahead of the session
- Ensuring everyone follows the instructions and is taking part in the activities
- Bring any issues (poor behaviour, illness, etc.) to the attention of the artist practitioner or pastoral staff.
- Help to tidy up equipment at the end of the session

Each volunteer would be expected to commit to a minimum of one evening per week. As the clubs will run on a rota (each school samples each activity for two weeks), we would ask that you commit to a school, rather than a specific activity. This not only makes things more convenient for you, as you are always going to the same place on the same night every week, but also allows you to build up a relationship with the young people you will be working with. Your presence and consistency will be integral to ensuring they return every week.

You will have some choice in which school you would like to go in to, as it will be important for you to be able to get yourself to and from the venue. Additionally, it would be ideal if you were working within your own community.

Times:

Clubs will run between 3:15pm and 5:15pm, over three evenings. Days are TBC.

There will be a six-week probationary period. At the end of these six weeks, we will invite you in for a chat to discuss how you have found the experience so far and how/if we will progress with your placement.

This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to gain experience working within the arts and, most importantly, engaging and enriching their community. Such work can really help a CV or Personal Statement stand out from the rest. Volunteering with *SJT Creation Studios* could also contribute towards gaining the Young Leaders Award.

Person Specification

Experience:

- No previous experience, either working with children, or within the specific activity areas (dance, drama, etc.) is necessary.

Personal Attributes:

- Good communication skills
- Good organisation skills
- Punctual
- Willing to take instruction
- Open to new experiences and meeting new people
- Enjoys working with children (aged 8-11)
- Patient
- Motivated and committed
- Enjoys art/ theatre/ music-based activities

To express an interest, or to talk about the role, please contact:

Diana Logan, Associate Director (Education): 07730 314869 / diana.logan@sjt.uk.com or Shelley Ainsworth, Administrator: shelley.ainsworth@sjt.uk.com, alternatively you can contact the SJT OutReach department on 01723 370541. Please detail your name, age and school you would be interested in working in.