

Volunteering - Helpful information for young volunteers

Venue - Boughton House, near Kettering, Northamptonshire

August bank holiday weekend Friday - Monday

It's great news that you want to volunteer for Greenbelt. Most of our volunteer roles are for those aged 18 or over, but we have some opportunities for 16 and 17 year olds. Please note you must be 16 by the Thursday before the festival to be eligible to volunteer.

To help you prepare for the festival we have drawn together some useful information to tell you more about volunteering at Greenbelt. This document might be useful to share with your parents/carers too.

About us

Greenbelt is a richly diverse, all-age, four-day festival held annually at Boughton House.

Through music, theatre, spoken word and art, the festival focuses on faith, arts and justice.

Underpinning the festival are values of welcome, dialogue and hope. You can find out more about the festival on our website:

www.greenbelt.org.uk

About volunteering

Volunteers make Greenbelt. We welcome around 900 volunteers to the festival site every year. Volunteering is a great way to get involved– you can try out new skills, gain experience, face fresh challenges, make friends, enjoy being part of a team and most of all have fun helping to make Greenbelt happen.

As well as appreciating the Greenbelt values and having any specific skills or experience needed for your role, we ask that you are reliable, enthusiastic, flexible, able to listen and share, and a team player with common sense and the ability to follow instructions. You should also be able to recognise your own limitations, take responsibility for yourself and adhere to Greenbelt's health and safety and safeguarding policies.

Most teams require volunteers to commit to around seven hours per day of the festival, which is around 28 hours in total over four days.

This might be split into two or three shorter shifts per day, depending on your team. There is still plenty of time for you to enjoy the festival too!

Speaking of enjoying the festival, there is so much onsite to explore when not volunteering. Make time to look at the festival line-up - online before the festival and/or onsite by downloading our app or buying our festival guide. Pick things to go and see every day.

Support for volunteers - from us to you

Volunteers are essential to the success of the festival.

To support you as a volunteer, Greenbelt offers:

- – entry to the festival for the weekend, so that you can complete your shifts
- – vouchers to buy food to keep you going during the hours you are on duty (you will need to bring some money/ food to keep you energised for the rest of the time)
- – entry into the Volunteers Lounge where there is free tea/coffee/cold drinks, biscuits and comfy seats for you as well as really cheap noodles and cup-a-soups you can buy for some quick extra nourishment

to enjoy as you take a well-earned break. It is also a great place to meet and chat with other volunteers. Note: You might want to bring your own mug, though you don't have to.

- – free showers onsite

Your Team Leader and your team are there to support you onsite but if you have a question, there's also an information desk in the Volunteers Lounge, where experienced volunteers will help you out and point you in the right direction.

When you're off shift you are unsupervised and free to explore the festival. If you start to feel a bit isolated, or have a problem you'd like to chat through, we have a Volunteer Support team you can get in touch with.

You can contact them via the Volunteers Lounge. The Volunteer Support team also drop by each team to find out how things are going across the weekend. They are there to help you so feel free to have a chat.

Accommodation

Say it with us; "Camping is fun!" Most volunteers camp over the festival weekend (though some pay to stay in nearby B&Bs or hire pre-erected tents- details on the website). There is an area of the campsite for volunteers – with spaces allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

It may sound silly but if you are camping you will need a tent and a sleeping bag. It can get cold at night even though it's August so bring something warm to sleep in.

In recent years we have seen rain and shine so come prepared, especially if your role is based outside. It's a good idea to bring: warm clothes, sun tan lotion, wellies or good shoes for walking, camping gear and a torch.

You can buy food and some supplies on site in our mini supermarket but you might want to bring some with you.

Getting more information

Your Team Leader will send you all the information you need about your volunteering role. There will also be a team briefing or training session that you will need to attend before the festival begins.

Your Team Leader will let you know when you need to arrive. Most of these briefing sessions take place in the days leading up to the festival weekend.

Greenbelt will email a copy of the Volunteer Handbook to you at the address you provided at application. This will give you lots of general information about volunteering and what's available for volunteers –it will also include a map of the festival site to help you to find your way around, so don't forget to read it before you come to the festival!

Please let your Team Leader know if you change your address in the time between sending in your application and the festival.

Emergency contact details

As you are 16 or 17, Greenbelt must have contact details for a responsible adult, over 21, who will either be; available on site, or able to come and collect you and/or be contacted in an emergency. You will need to print these contact details and carry them with you onsite.

Your team leader will need to have a copy of these emergency contact details before the festival. They will get in touch to ask you for them. These details will also be shared with Greenbelt's Festival Administrator.

Note to parents/carers

Please do not rely on being able to email staff, volunteers or your young people over the festival weekend. There is also more information about volunteering on:
greenbelt.org.uk/festival/volunteer

**If you have any further questions in the lead-up to the festival please do ask.
Greenbelt's Festival Administrator is:**

Peter King – volunteers@greenbelt.org.uk

London Office number (for use before the week of the festival): 020 7329 0038