

INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERING AT THE GRASSMARKET



Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Grassmarket Community Project.

Volunteers are vital to the project and we hugely value their commitment and contribution. By giving up their time they make a positive contribution to our members' lives and ensure the success of the project.

There are numerous ways people can volunteer:

- Help in one of our many group activities (**Volunteer role – A/grey area below**)
- Help in the kitchen, wood workshop or serving members' lunches (**Volunteer role – A/grey area below**)
- Help in the café (**Volunteer role – A/grey area below**)
- Help with the community drop-in Open Door Meal on Monday evenings which is targeted at Homeless people, the vulnerably housed or people with no recourse to public funding but open to all (**Volunteer role – contact info@grassmarket.org if this all you wish to volunteer in**)
- Leading a group or having a specific role such as reception (**Volunteer Facilitator role – see box below**)
- Having had some experience in the project as a member taking on some additional responsibilities (**Peer Mentor 'Volunteer' Role**)

A - How to become a Volunteer:

To become any **Volunteer**, as we are a community, you undergo the same process as becoming a **member**, at first, namely, we ask that you:

1. Complete a registration form on line or on paper <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCPRegistration19>
2. Have a one-to-one meeting with one of our team join@grassmarket.org
3. Attend a brief induction (often completed on the same day as 2)
4. Now you can volunteer in the kitchen, café, George St, St James and Woodwork. Will provide you with the contact details of the staff who run these

B - If you wish to become a Volunteer Facilitator then we ask that you:

1. Complete part A above.
2. Experience a group first hand and observe how they work (suggested 3 activities to fully understand our way of working and who we support)
3. Join the PVG (Protection for Vulnerable Groups Scheme) which is free and we will help with this process. <https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme/>
4. Make sure that you have the available time and capacity to commit to a role
5. Attend a Lead Volunteer Induction and Training session (held every month). Normally lasting two hours.
6. Provide 2 character references



Activities and Commitment

We need volunteers to volunteer in a range of activities from gardening, cleaning, washing up, serving food to helping move or make furniture, making textile gifts with our Tartan to selling to customers by Volunteering on a craft stall or at an event. We occasionally need reception staff, people to help run our community cinema, people to do odd jobs like painting and deep cleaning throughout the year.

Commitment varies from two hours if helping to run or lead an activity to 4 hours in the kitchen to a few days if helping us run bothy trips or weekends away. For **Volunteer Facilitator** roles we ask for a minimum commitment of three months if possible, for other Volunteer Roles you can get involved for as little or as long as you like.

Everyone that volunteers tells us that they enjoy it. Many tell us they love the fact that it supports people and the community. Many use volunteering to get work-experience, gain confidence and get into work.

NOTE: Volunteer Facilitators cannot participate in the wider programmes or classes offered at the Grassmarket except Choir, Walking group, members meetings, residentials and our cooking classes. They cannot socialise with members or share personal details such as their address or follow them on social media – this is because they are treated like staff and may as leaders be provided with background information on participants in groups. This is to protect the Volunteer Facilitator and our members.

Support and Training

All our volunteers receive ongoing support and free training throughout the year. In the past this has included:

Challenging Behaviour

Mental Health

Minibus Driver MIDDAS

First Aid

Drugs & Alcohol Awareness

Walking Group Leader

Food Hygiene

Suicide Prevention

Benefits Support

Volunteer Facilitator Meetings are held every two months to allow volunteers to share success stories, advise us on how to improve services and raise any issues regarding their groups or the wider project.

We do not reimburse travel costs but we do provide a free lovely two course lunch in a wonderful setting and supportive community.



Peer Mentors

If you would like to be a **member**, have all the benefits of being able to attend and or all the activities or classes you like at the Grassmarket, enjoy socialising with other Members and sharing personal information with other members and/or following each other on social media plus have some additional responsibilities and support others in the project more formally then why become a **Peer Mentor**. This role includes responsibilities like:

- Running activities in the Grassmarket Centre with staff on-hand
- Opening and closing rooms, setting up spaces and helping prepare activities
- Making teas and coffees for members or serving lunch
- Undertaking practical work unsupervised such as painting rooms, gardening or deep cleaning

Next steps

To become a volunteer complete a Registration Form – see A or B above/overleaf. This can be collected in person at reception from the project or accessed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCPRegistration19>

Once your form has been completed.

Please email volunteer@grassmarket.org to make an appointment for registration and an induction

-Please let us know when enquiring if you are interested in a particular opportunity such as: IT, Café, Reception, Woodwork or Tartan (textiles) this helps us forward your request to the correct person-