

Volunteering at the Citadel

Volunteers are the bedrock of the Citadel's service. We always need more volunteers to work with children and young people in our youth clubs. We provide training and support and will offer you an experience you'll never forget!

We are always looking for people who:

- Really enjoy being with children and young people
- Are reliable, enthusiastic and committed
- Are open minded, non judgmental and respectful
- Have a sense of humour and are open to trying new things

Working in our youth clubs is really fun and you can choose which age group you would like to work with. We currently have volunteering opportunities in all our youth clubs as well as in our employability cafes, young mums group and intergenerational work:

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YOUTH CENTRE

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VOLUNTEER STORIES



VOLUNTEERING AT THE CITADEL IS A GREAT EXPERIENCE, BUT DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT-HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR CURRENT VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THEIR TIME WITH US:

Sarah Haigh

What do you do when you're not in the Citadel? I've just started an MSc in Social Work at Edinburgh Uni, and I work part time as a chef in a Mexican restaurant. Apart from that I try to find time to run and do a few Zumba classes every week.

Why did you decide to start volunteering in the Citadel? I was looking for somewhere to gain experience in youth work, but also where I would enjoy spending time, and I found it!

How have you found the experience of volunteering at the Citadel?

As I started from a zero skills base, I think I have learned quite a lot so far about being around a big group of excited children! More generally, I think the ethos I've found at Citadel, of focusing on building relationships with and between the children and young people, has meant that there is a really positive attitude from everyone involved, the kids and the staff and the volunteers, which has changed my perception of how youth work can be done. I'm sure as I continue my studies I will find the experience and skills I'm learning ever more useful.



Paul Scott

Why did you decide to start volunteering in the Citadel? Initially, out of self interest because I needed experience on my CV when I decided to change career to work in youth work. Having now gained a lot of experience within youth work I attend out of enjoyment of working with supportive staff and having established a bond with the children.



How have you found the experience of volunteering at the Citadel? Although I often find the work stressful, which impacts negatively on my epilepsy, this is outweighed by the positive effects of feeling part of a team and the sense I am role modelling. As a male I feel this is particularly important because many children won't have male role models at primary school or with single parent families. It has definitely aided my self development in terms of learning from more experienced staff and volunteers on how to work "effectively" with young people.

Anything else you'd like to say about the Citadel? I could choose to work or volunteer at several other youth clubs but I continue to work at The Citadel because I have felt supported, valued but I also get the sense that staff are actually benefitting the young people.

Laura Meikle

What do you do when you're not in the Citadel? When I am not volunteering at the Citadel I work for the Scottish Government. I do policy which is about



children and young people getting the support they need to help them learn.

How have you found the experience of volunteering at the Citadel? Volunteering at the Citadel has helped me become more confident as an individual and has developed my people skills. My experiences with the children and young people have given me a better understanding of the things that families face, not having enough money, community and family issues. Understanding that these things can influence what happens in a family and therefore everything about their lives, including school, has meant that I have changed the way that I develop policy. I now take into account the wider issues which might be influencing why a child, young person or their family might need support to learn.

Anything else you'd like to say about the Citadel? If anyone is considering volunteering but is maybe a little unsure I would encourage them to just go for it, particularly at the Citadel. Although it might be daunting to think about doing something new with lots of children and young people that you don't know it doesn't take long for you to develop relationships. The Citadel is very good at making volunteers feel supported and helped – and the activities we do with the children are about having fun!

