



Volunteer/Member Role Description

Role: Community & Social Activities Member

Our Community and Social Services

SVP runs a number of services that focus on the personal, educational, physical and social development of the individual. We operate community resource centres, community care centres and day care centres for the elderly where we offer a variety of support services to older members of our community. Our aim is to provide members with a social environment and outlet where they engage in activities to develop skills which help improve their physical health, while keeping alive their mental capacity, as well as their social and emotional wellbeing.

Overview of the Volunteer Role

Volunteers share their time, their passions, and their skills in a particular way to support members in their daily activities in our centres. We organize activities like physical fitness programmes, board games, cross words, table quizzes, darts, bowls, bingo, and specific educational or developmental courses which vary over time. Our volunteers help to organise and deliver these activities to clients. But perhaps the most important function is to support the social aspect in the group, as many of our members live alone and the support and care you can offer can make all the difference in their lives.

Key Tasks & Responsibilities – (Further details provided for individual services)

1. Build positive relationships with the members who attend the service.
2. Assist with the set-up of the room for the activities and help with the clearing up and cleaning at the end of the session
3. Assist with the organisation and the delivery of activities to members
4. Ensure participants are comfortable as possible and included in all activities
5. Provide a listening ear to members, particularly those who are vulnerable for various reasons and in need of company
6. From time to time, prepare and lead an activity with the group - particularly if you have skills, talents and experience which you can contribute and which the group will enjoy. This will be agreed in advance with the coordinator.

Key Skills, Experience & Qualities – (Further details provided for individual services)

1. A strong commitment and enthusiasm for supporting older adults.
2. An ability to express empathy and treat people with respect, sensitivity and tact.
3. An ability to instil fun and energy when supporting older people in their daily activities
4. Ability to relate well to people and enjoy dealing with them
5. Patience, resilience, tolerance and flexibility
6. An empathy towards the personal, social and/or physical development of the individual

Time Commitment

The exact times and dates will be agreed between the volunteer and the programme co-ordinator. Volunteers are expected to attend the service on one agreed day a week. Most of our volunteers work 2-3 hours per week



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Induction & Training & Support

Volunteers will complete a comprehensive induction with a designated member of the Conference/service that will include reviewing the role description, volunteer agreement, the code of conduct, general operations of the service, health and safety information, and safeguarding procedures.

Volunteers will also receive a Volunteer Handbook detailing the policies and procedures of their Service that they should familiarise themselves with.

Volunteers will also complete safeguarding vulnerable adult training.

Your Service Coordinator will provide direct support to you in your new role. There will be opportunities to debrief where you can discuss any issues that arose during the day. Other members of the Conference/service/team will also provide support on an ongoing basis.

Key Requirements

1. Complete the SVP recruitment process which includes the application form, informal interview, reference checks and Garda Vetting.
2. Complete the full mandatory induction training and undertake ongoing member development training and refresher training provided by the Society.
3. Complete Safeguarding Training as requested.
4. Adhere to the Society's ethos, mission statement, and policies and procedures.
5. Commitment to the personal, social and/or educational development of the individual
6. Belief that the best interests of those availing of our services are paramount.

Benefits

1. The opportunity to contribute positively in the lives of older members of our community to improve their overall well being
2. Personal and professional development in terms of confidence, patience, adaptability, leadership, communication, decision-making etc.
3. General happiness and satisfaction.
4. To make a difference in the lives of others
5. An opportunity to use and develop your own skills, passions and talents.
6. An opportunity to develop friendships and meaningful relationships with like-minded peers

SVP's National Children & Family Services Manager can be contacted for any further information or support on 085-8766875.