



Ocean Youth Trust North

Volunteer Information

You are a few simple steps away from becoming a volunteer with Ocean Youth Trust North.

Step 1: Please complete the Volunteer Application form and return by email to:

office@oytnorth.org.uk

or by post to: Ocean Youth Trust North, Royal Quays Community Centre, 9 Prince Consort Way, North Shields, NE29 6XB

Step 2: Once your application is processed, we will invite you to join us on an induction weekend with other potential volunteers. Please note that this will not be a youth voyage. The cost of the weekend is currently £100 per person which includes the provision of the personal safety equipment and foul weather clothing, insurance, food and refreshments while onboard.

Step 3: The aim of the weekend is to familiarise you with our Sail Training Vessel, James Cook, and enable you to see for yourself what it is like to volunteer onboard. You will also attend our Introduction to Child Protection course which is mandatory for all who sail on voyages with young people.

Step 4: At the end of the weekend you will receive individual feedback from the skipper.

Step 5: The next stage is for you to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check and for us to contact the referees which you provided in your application form.

Step 6: Subject to all this being satisfactory, we will confirm your volunteer status and add your name to our volunteer mailing list. You will then receive details of forthcoming youth voyages on which you can reserve a volunteer berth. We do not charge volunteers for sailing on youth voyages and there is no limit as to how many voyages on which you can volunteer, subject to the availability of berths.

We do not ask you to pay an annual membership fee but we do expect you to sign up as a **Friend of OYT North** and make a monthly, discretionary, donation of at least £5.00 per month. If the requirement to make a donation is a barrier to your participation, please come and talk to us.

Your donation will support a young person, who otherwise could not afford to sail, to benefit from a Sail Training voyage.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What experience/skills do I need to become a volunteer?

What we are really looking for is people who can engage with young people between 12-25 years. Basic sailing and youth work experience is desirable but not essential as we can teach you the skills you will need and more.

What happens on an induction weekend?

You will board at 6pm on a Friday evening and spend some time getting to know the other volunteers, go through basic safety training and depending on the weather go for a short sailing. The next morning you will attend our Introduction to Child Protection course and then we'll go sailing again. There will be further training and familiarisation and an overnight stay in a local port. On Sunday, we'll sail back to North Shields, clean up the boat, review the weekend and you receive individual feedback from the Skipper before disembarking.

How much time will I have to commit?

We ask our Volunteers to commit to an induction weekend and then at least one youth voyage per season. There is no limit on how much you can volunteer, if there are berths available.

What is the Introduction to Child Protection course?

It is a formal training course which will help you gain the knowledge and skills to confidently deal with safeguarding issues. Its purpose is to ensure the protection of young people and the adults who work with them. It is important and you must have attended this course (or its equivalent) within the last 3 years to be able to sail on a young person's voyage with us. A certificate of attendance will be issued, which is valid for three years.

Are there other opportunities for volunteering?

We also offer volunteering opportunities ashore, both in our office and while the boats are in port and during the winter refit. You can also become an ambassador for OYT North, visiting local youth organisations, representing the Trust and sharing what we do.

What do I get out of volunteering?

You will have the opportunity to sail ocean going yachts and benefit from sharing our knowledge and experience. You can achieve RYA Watchleader certificate and will have access to our Sail Training School where we run RYA Cruising and Powerboat schemes. Our Volunteering Credits Scheme allows you to offset your time spent volunteering against the cost of chartering our smaller yacht. This allows you to gain experience of being in charge or explore the smaller ports of the North East coast.

We also have available a range of branded clothing, badges and car stickers and, as a volunteer, you are entitled to a discount at Cotswold Outdoors stores.