

COMMUNITY ACTION: MK

How to develop a volunteering opportunity

If we simply ask 'what can volunteers do for us?' we risk screening out opportunities based on our own previous experiences and prejudices around working with volunteers. We need a different starting point. Take a piece of paper and use the following four steps to help guide your thinking:

1. Think about the parts of your job or group activity that you really enjoy. Be specific and try to break them down into tasks. Write them down.
2. What are the parts of your job or activity that you really dislike? Try to think about specific tasks.
3. What activities or projects have you always wanted to do but never had the time for? What's your wishlist?
4. What would you like to see done that you don't have the skills or time to do currently? Get creative!

Review your answers

Ideally we don't want to take away tasks from people that they actually enjoy doing, this isn't really a motivator to work with volunteers.

Similarly, we don't want to just give volunteers all the things we dislike doing, however, what one person dislikes could be another person's favourite thing to do!

So, carefully consider your dislikes, and bear in mind that some things you might be legally responsible for or have a level of accountability for within the organisation.

Often there are many things we feel we would like to do if only we had the time or skills. These things can make for good volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to [Know How Non Profit](#) for these resources.

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