

national day
of
volunteering
www.volunteer.ie



volunteer centres

Ionaid d'Oibrí Deonacha na hÉireann

IRELAND

The National Day of Volunteering

Frequently Asked Questions for Volunteer Involving Organisations



Q. What is the National Day of Volunteering?

- A.** The National Day of Volunteering, a Volunteer Centres Ireland initiative, is that one day of the year when we encourage everyone in Ireland to give volunteering a go, to show that – even for a minute, an hour, a day - volunteering can make a big difference and be a lot of fun.

Q. What is volunteering?

- A.** Volunteering is any action undertaken of a person's freewill for the benefit of others for which no payment is expected. More than this, it is the building block of community and the essence of society. Voluntary activity is an essential sign of a society in which people care for one another. Without it, we are only a country of individuals.

Q. Who can take part in the National Day of Volunteering?

- A.** Anyone! So we are looking for volunteer involving organisations to help us provide volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, business or community groups of any kind who want to get involved on the day.

Q. Why take part in the National Day of Volunteering?

- A.** Because volunteering benefits everyone, creates community spirit and is a lot of fun. Volunteering has a proven positive impact on volunteers, those they volunteer with and society in general.

Check out www.volunteer.ie to see why individuals, groups and organisations took part last year.

Q. How can my organisation take part?

1) Contact your local Volunteer Centre

You can do this by logging on to www.volunteer.ie to find your nearest centre or by calling 01 7994519 to let us know your organisation is interested in getting involved.

2) Identify the Volunteer Opportunity within your organisation

Identify a need within your organisation or community that you think volunteers could help you with. Alternatively, why not host an open evening for potential volunteers to see what your organisation does or host a recognition event for your existing volunteers.

3) Register the Volunteer Opportunity

You can register your volunteer opportunity with your local Volunteer Centre or on www.volunteer.ie. When suitable volunteers have been found or express interest in your opportunity, the Volunteer Centre will put you in contact with them.

5) Spread the word!

Why not use your involvement in the National Day of Volunteering to publicise the good work that you do and the services you provide! Tell everyone! As well as telling colleagues and friends, send details of your involvement to your local newspaper and radio stations along with pictures from the day or in the run up to it. You may also want to consider inviting local dignitaries or any celebrities associated with your organisation to get involved on the day too.

Download our sample Press Kit from www.volunteer.ie for further information. We would also be delighted if you could send us your photos and videos to nationalday@volunteer.ie and post the progress of your projects on our facebook page or forum.

Q. What other issues does my organisation need to consider?

- A.** Most volunteering projects can go ahead easily, below are some issues that you may consider:

Planning - Ensure you have a plan of activity, the tasks are clearly defined and the volunteers are happy with their roles.

Permission - Make sure you have permission from all parties involved, e.g. permission with the local council for conducting events in public places, etc.

Communication - Good communication should be maintained with all parties to ensure the success of the project and to enhance the benefits for all.

Insurance - Check that your Public Liability Insurance is up to date.

Waste Disposal - Clean-up projects must make sure that they have sufficient means to dispose of waste.

Materials - Materials are often required for projects. We encourage organisations to seek sponsorship from local businesses, for example, a garden centre might provide you with free or discounted plants for your project.



The National Day of Volunteering

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)



Q. What if October 1st doesn't suit our organisation?

- A.** You can hold the project over the weekend, or perhaps the week before or the week after. Whenever your organisation holds its project, it is really important to register your volunteer opportunity as soon as you can. This gives us as much time as possible to attract the required number of volunteers.

Q. What kind of time is involved?

- A.** Your involvement can be as much or as little as you want and will be dependent on what volunteer opportunities you have to offer. Just remember whatever your involvement, it all makes a difference and highlights that volunteering is fun, easy to get involved in and helps build community spirit.

Q. But our organisation already involves volunteers?

- A.** That's great! On the National Day of Volunteering, why not give an extra push to your ongoing volunteer activity or hold a recognition event to celebrate your dedicated volunteers?

Q. Where can we get posters, t-shirts and other promotional items for the organisation?

- A.** Contact nationalday@volunteer.ie to let us know what you need.

