

# Why Volunteer?

**As a volunteer you can contribute your time, energy, enthusiasm and skills to help us make a difference to the people in your community.**

Volunteers are at the heart of our organisation and represent the John Sykes Foundation in our local community. You will help us raise the profile of the charity and support the Foundation through teamwork and dedication so that we can deliver support and a variety of projects and raise valuable funds for those in need.

**Please help us to help them ...**



## John Sykes Foundation

The John Sykes Foundation was established on 10th April 2014 with the aim of helping to transform the lives of people in and around Reading.

Property entrepreneur John Sykes was born and raised in the borough, he lived at Cemetery Junction and attended Alfred Sutton School before going on to conceive Atlantis in 2000.

The Foundation aims to support people from all walks of life in areas including education, health, disability, sport, arts and culture, science and any other charitable purpose. There are four levels of grants that can be applied for ranging from smaller grants under £500 to larger grants up to £10,000.

The charity is being personally supported by John Sykes who will meet the costs of the organisation so that 100% of the funds raised are distributed back to the people of Reading. Reading is a thriving town but there are still people that are forgotten and as a local charity the Foundation aims to reach people that national organisations are unable to support.

The charity gives the people of Reading a chance to reach their goals, live their dreams or get a helping hand when they are alone or vulnerable.



## How does volunteering work?

Volunteers are vital to the John Sykes Foundation. They are the link into our communities all over the Reading area. Volunteers are integrated into the structure of the charity and contribute towards the charity's aims and objectives.

Volunteers contribute by giving their time and enthusiasm in a range of roles agreed upon joining the organisation. We believe the relationship between volunteers and the charity is based upon trust, honesty, dedication and a desire to make a real difference to those in need. In most cases volunteers will be over 16 years old as there are legal requirements that need to be adhered to for children and young people. But don't let this put you off! If you are younger just get in touch and we'll discuss ways in which you can get involved.

## What we would like from you ...

We would like you to aim for high standards of efficiency, reliability and a belief in the Foundation's work.

We want you to have the best possible experience by getting involved, you will always have the ability to contact the Chief Executive as well as have the support of the Trustees.

## What you can expect from us ...

You can expect equal opportunities for all, appropriate training where necessary, recognition of loyalty and dedication, respect and regular communication.

We encourage a positive and friendly atmosphere. You will be protected through adequate insurance and risk assessments when assisting at events and we will ensure that we offer best practice in volunteer management in accordance with the Institute of Fundraising.



## Getting started

We want to make sure that you've got everything you need to get started. Initially you will be invited to have an informal interview, this will give you the opportunity to learn more about the charity and make sure it's a cause you want to support. This will also give you an opportunity to ask any questions and highlight any areas you would like further information about.

Once we've all agreed that you would be the right person to join the team you will be asked to complete a brief registration form. You will receive regular updates and opportunities to get involved with events and appropriate projects.

## What's next ...

**Simply get in touch.** We'll arrange a meeting to discuss opportunities, then once you are part of our team you can really start to get involved with the aim of making a difference to people from all walks of life in your community.

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## Helping to transform lives in Reading

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