

FAQ'S

Before you view our volunteer opportunities, please spare a few moments to read our FAQ's.

WHY DOES SIA NEED VOLUNTEERS?

As with any voluntary organisation, SIA is reliant on help from volunteers to compliment the work undertaken by paid members of staff, particularly for community-based projects that require some level of local knowledge and/or expertise in a particular area of work. We recognise that much of what we do could not be achieved without this help, and therefore all our volunteers are very highly valued and appreciated. Volunteers play a big part in enabling the SIA to deliver services, fundraise, and raise the profile and further awareness of spinal cord injury.

WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO DO?

It would depend on the role you volunteer for, however we try to give all our volunteers specific tasks, and provide induction and/or training to help you meet the responsibilities and requirements of your role. We also provide a named person who will meet with you regularly to discuss your volunteering role, successes or problems. We tailor make volunteer experiences and ensure volunteers have the necessary resources and support.

At SIA HQ, volunteers support a combination of administrative tasks as well as get involved in specific projects. We also provide roles for those who wish to support at fundraising events as well as more specialised volunteering roles assisting our Peer Support team.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL I HAVE TO GIVE?

Some roles require you to give a specific amount of time, or have particular skills. The description for each role will tell you what kind of time commitment or experience is required. Most roles will just generally need your time, reliability and enthusiasm.

WILL I BE PAID?

We will always reimburse reasonable travel expenses made on our behalf provided receipts are submitted, but we will not be able to offer any form of payment to volunteers.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Once you have read the FAQ's please fill in the registration form, this will give the Volunteer Coordinator an idea as to what you might like to help with but also where your skills are. We may not necessarily be able to find a role for you straight away so we do ask that you are patient during the process. You will be contacted once a suitable role has been identified and invited into SIA HQ for an informal chat. If you are not local then the volunteer coordinator will arrange a suitable time to call you. It is an opportunity for you to find out more about the role and the organisation, we can also get to know you and find out how we can match your skills and interests with our volunteering opportunities.

WILL YOU NEED REFERENCES?

Yes, we will ask for two references for most of our roles. This helps us to confirm the identity of our volunteers and to build a better understanding of them.

WHAT NEXT?

After we have spoken with you and if both parties are happy to proceed you will be asked to read and sign the Volunteer Agreement. This sets out the main principles and relationship between the organisation and volunteer. In addition, you will be provided with relevant policies and procedures to read and adhere to, as well as a volunteer description outlining the duties you have agreed to undertake.

If the role involves you having direct contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, then please be aware you will be DBS checked (Disclosure and Baring Service) before you can start the role. This is essential and in compliance with safeguarding regulations.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

If you would like to get involved in our work and help make a difference, please get in touch!