

# BOLLOCKS to POVERTY

## VOLUNTEERING AT READING FESTIVAL 2011

Thanks for enquiring about volunteering at Reading festival with ActionAid! We take the Bollocks to Poverty message out to people as often as we can, but we couldn't do it without the help of our fantastic volunteers. We would love you to be part of the team, so here's some more information about volunteering with us, and what to do next...

### Who are ActionAid?

We are an international charity working alongside poor communities in over 40 countries worldwide to end their own poverty for good. We believe in people's right to food, water, shelter and education. But we also know that helping people understand, fight for and access these rights is the most effective way to end their poverty.

We don't want you to feel guilty; people living in poverty don't want your guilt, they want justice. Whatever you're into, there's loads of ways you can support people fighting their way out of poverty, and becoming an ActionAid volunteer is just one of them.

### What does volunteering involve?

You will be required to work about 24 hours over the course of 4 days. Your role is to talk to people in the ActionAid tent about the campaign we are running, which will relate to the issues ActionAid works on such as corporate abuse, hunger or climate change. Festival goers will be encouraged to have their photo taken as part of the campaign action, and sign up to hear more from Bollocks to Poverty.

You will be collecting data on a hand held PDA and using this to take photos as well. At times you will also have to stand outside handing out stickers and encouraging people to go inside the tent.

You'll probably enjoy the experience more if you're an out-going person. You need to be honest and reliable as you will be representing ActionAid to thousands of people.

### What it doesn't involve:

- Shaking a collection tin or asking people for money



Photo: Greg Funnell/ActionAid

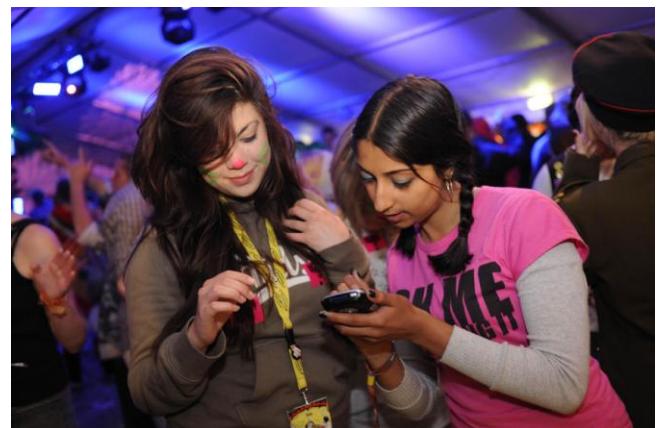


Photo: Aubrey Wade/ActionAid

**How long will I have to be at the festival for?**

You will need to be on site from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August until Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. (The ActionAid tent is open to the public from Thursday – Sunday.)

**Do I need any skills or experience?**

We look for the following attributes in volunteers:

- Reliability (It really affects our events when volunteers turn up late or not at all so please only volunteer if you are sure you can come.)
- Enthusiasm and energy
- Commitment to ActionAid's mission and values
- Confidence (you will probably enjoy volunteering more if you are outgoing and happy approaching people.)

**Do I need to be a certain age?**

Bollocks to Poverty is the youth arm of ActionAid, so it helps if our volunteers are younger people too. You need to be 18 or over to volunteer at festivals for legal reasons and we have an upper age limit of 26. If you are older and want to volunteer with ActionAid at other events, we can put you in touch with the relevant team, just contact us.

**I am disabled, can I still apply to campaign?**

Yes, please indicate details of any disability or medical condition on your application form so that we can check whether the necessary facilities are available. We welcome applications from disabled volunteers; however, because we rely on the festival organisers to supply our camping and toilet facilities, we may not be able to guarantee the necessary facilities and thus a placement.

**How do you choose volunteers for festivals?**

Festivals are extremely popular with our volunteers and we always have far more people who want to help than we have spaces for. But if you have demonstrated a commitment to ActionAid – for example, by volunteering at a smaller event, putting on a Bollocks to Poverty event, or taking part in a fundraising event – then your application will be given priority treatment.

**Who can be my referee?**

If you have not volunteered with ActionAid before you are required to provide the name of a referee. It should be someone who knows you in a formal capacity like a college lecturer or employer, not your mum or your mate! We will call your referee and ask them if they feel you are appropriate for the job and whether they will stand as a character reference to your reliability and honesty.

**Do I get any training?**

You will be emailed a briefing pack about two weeks before the festival with a clear and detailed explanation of the campaign and an outline of what you will be required to do when working at the festival. Please make sure you read this before the festival. There will also be a comprehensive training session held on site before we open, where we will run through the campaign, what you are required to do and you will be able to ask any questions you may have.

**Who will I be volunteering with?**

It takes about 30 volunteers to run the ActionAid tent, so there will be plenty people to get to know. Approximately half will have experience of campaigning for ActionAid at other events or festivals and along with ActionAid staff, can help first time campaigners if needed. Most people will have been involved with ActionAid in some way, either through fundraising, writing or the Bollocks to Poverty tour.

**Do you provide tents?**

No, you need to bring your own tent and all other camping equipment you may need, such as a roll matt and sleeping bag.

**Do you provide transport to the festivals?**

For some of the festivals we put on a free coach from London. A map and full travel information will be provided in your briefing pack.

**Do you provide food?**

Yes! You will receive meal tickets for three meals a day from the crew catering tent. We also provide snacks and drinks to keep you going.

**Where will I camp?**

You will be provided a crew camping area separate from the general public camping. All volunteers have to camp in this ActionAid area. If you have friends attending the festival, they won't be able to camp with you as access is restricted to crew only. Please make sure you bring your own tent, sleeping bag and camping equipment.

**What happens if my favourite band is playing and I'm supposed to be working?**

You will have the opportunity to swap shifts with other volunteers.

**Does working as a campaigner entitle me to a backstage pass?**

No - but 10 out of 10 for trying!

**What else do I get?**

Hopefully, a great experience, a feeling of achievement and some new friends! Our volunteers come back year after year because they have a great time and know they are doing something really positive as well. There's obvious CV benefits and of course the added bonus of free time at gigs and festivals.

**What do I do now?**

Fill in the volunteer application form online - don't forget to select which festival you want to volunteer at!

Due to the sheer number of applicants, we can't let everyone know if they have been successful. If you are one of the lucky ones then we'll be in touch after the application deadline to let you know and about two weeks before the festival you will receive a briefing pack with all the information you'll need about the campaign and what to bring etc.



Photo: Aubrey Wade/ActionAid



Photo: Greg Funnell/ActionAid