

BOLLOCKS to POVERTY

VOLUNTEERING AT UNDERAGE FESTIVAL 2011

Thanks for enquiring about volunteering at Underage 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 6 hours over the course of the day. 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

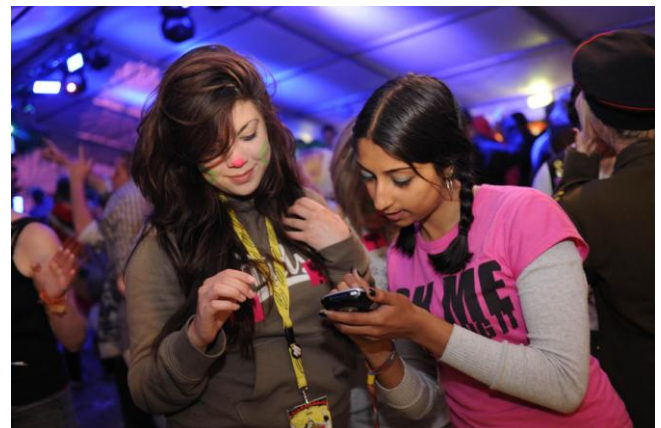


Photo: Aubrey Wade/ActionAid

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

You will need to be on site from approximately 9am to 8pm on Friday 5th August. Exact times will be confirmed in the briefing pack.

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. Underage is strictly for under 18s and to volunteer with us you need to be 16 or 17 on the date of the festival. If you are 18-26 you can volunteer at any of the other festivals Bollocks to Poverty is at. If you are 27 or over 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.

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 15 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 food?

Yes! You will receive expenses to cover two meals during the day from the catering vans. We also provide snacks and drinks to keep you going.

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