

# BOLLOCKS to POVERTY

## Volunteering with ActionAid 2011

Thanks for enquiring about volunteering at events and festivals 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?

Taking the Bollocks to Poverty message to festivals and other events gets people interested in what ActionAid does, and our volunteers make it happen. They help us communicate the passion, energy and commitment that ActionAid has to fighting poverty. Depending on the event, our volunteers can be:

- Talking to people about ActionAid and the poverty related issues we campaign on such as hunger, climate change and corporate abuse.
- Encouraging people to take part in a campaign or sign up to find out more.
- Giving out free Bollocks to Poverty stickers, badges and flyers.
- Helping set up, run, and pack up stalls.
- Creative campaigning such as taking photos of people with campaign messages or helping apply Bollocks to Poverty tattoos.

### What it doesn't involve:

- Shaking a collection tin or asking people for money

### What kind of events could I be volunteering at?

Every summer we have a presence at several festivals, and in the past few years we have attended O2 Wireless, Underage, Field Day, Freeze, NASS and Reading. Occasionally we need volunteers for other Bollocks to Poverty events, like gigs or club nights. Our presence can range from a single stall to a huge marquee!



Photo: Greg Funnell/ActionAid



Photo: Aubrey Wade/ActionAid

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

Festivals such as Reading 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.

**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 (except Underage Festival), 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.

**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 you provide tents?**

No. If it's a campaign festival then 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! We make sure you get hot meals and snacks 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!

**Do I get any training?**

Depending on the event, we may need to brief you on a particular campaign or issue beforehand. You are not expected to be an expert on development issues as there will always be ActionAid staff around to deal with any tricky questions. But an interest in, or some knowledge of the issues we campaign on always helps.

**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



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