



**Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

**Work:** Sports/Kids

**Vols:** 12

**Age:** 18+

**Location:** Close to Southampton

After several successful years running our LTV project with the YMCA Fairthorne Manor, the YMCA would love to give the opportunity to 12 volunteers to do an 8 month project starting in March 2017 that will provide experience and training, working and running activities with children.

YMCA Fairthorne Group is a fast growing charity. Their mission is to champion and add value to young lives by providing experiences that challenge, enable and develop the individual. Fairthorne Manor is an Outdoor Activity Centre and Campsite that delivers activities and events to over 30,000 children and families each year on both a residential and day basis.

As an Activity Centre they offer a wide range of activities including High Ropes, Water Activities, Bushcraft and Team Building activities. Year round they offer children's birthday parties, large community events, family open days, public camping, family camping weekends and corporate team building days, they also host community groups such as youth bands, churches and counselling groups. During the school terms they deliver a diverse outdoor education programme to school and community groups, whilst during the holidays they deliver a successful daycamp programme for children aged 4 to 16 years, catering for up to 600 children per day. Fairthorne Manor delivers services and programmes 7 days of the week throughout most of the year.

**Work:**

Based at Fairthorne Manor, you will be part of the Programme Team and provide a range of activities and services to support the centre and their community, including members, schools, families, Daycamps, Campers, Nurseries and local groups. You will be trained in a variety of roles to ensure great customer service and a memorable experience for everyone that visits us.

You will play a leading role in preparing for and hosting the various groups that use us, preparing accommodation, serving meals, marshalling events and maintaining the activities and centre as a whole. During your time you will also be trained to lead a wide range of outdoor activities which could include High Ropes, Water Activities, Bushcraft and Team Building activities to children and adults of all ages and abilities.

## **Responsibilities:**

As an International Volunteer your main responsibilities will be:

- Being a welcoming and caring individual and an inspirational role model
- Actively engaging all customers, providing encouragement and support
- Working with and respecting others in a large and diverse team
- Being responsible for customers' welfare and pastoral needs during their stay
- Lead in the delivery of the varying activities/events hosted & run by Fairthorne Manor, to include activity leading, site maintenance, housekeeping, catering, marshalling and other tasks to ensure a high quality experience for the customers
- Be a role model of good practice and behavior to other Volunteers and staff and support them where necessary
- Have a working knowledge of Fairthorne Manor's operational policies.
- Ensure the correct and safe use of appropriate equipment.
- Act in the interests of your own safety & the safety of others at all times
- To follow YMCA Fairthorne Group's Safe Guarding, Child Protection and Safer Working practice policies at all times. Taking any concerns regarding health and/or wellbeing to your line manager or senior management
- Anything else reasonably requested by the management of the organisation

## **Volunteer Specification/Experience:**

- Current and relevant skills and experience working with children, youth and/or adults in a community/sport/education environment
- A caring and welcoming personality, able to communicate well and engage with a wide range of people, including children, staff, parents and group leaders.
- To be active and have a general level of fitness as much of the role has a physical nature.
- A genuine enthusiasm for working with children/families and members of the public.
- A genuine enthusiasm for the work of the organisation.
- Willingness to learn new skills and undergo training.
- **As this post involves working with children and living on site, all applicants must be aged 18 years or older.**

## **Training:**

You will be offered full and comprehensive training in all elements of working at a busy Centre and running outdoor activities. During your time you will be trained in Customer service, Health and Safety, Food Hygiene, and a range of National Governing Body Qualifications, which may include British Canoe Union level 1 or ERCA.

**Accommodation:** All volunteers receive food and on-site accommodation at Fairthorne Manor for free. You will be allocated a basic room, which may be shared with up to 4 other volunteers/instructors. Three meals a day will be provided in the dining room. There are shared toilet and shower facilities and a washing machine.

**Please note, Fairthorne Manor is not a 5\* hotel. It is more like a youth hostel with dormitory-style accommodation and basic facilities.**

**Location:** Fairthorne Manor is located in a village called Curdrige which is near the city of Southampton on the south coast of England. It is about 15 minutes' walk from Fairthorne Manor into the village where there are shops and pubs. The nearest train station is Botley from where it is about half an hour's journey into Southampton.

**Travel to the project:** Fly to London airports or Southampton airport, then get a train to Botley train station.

**Working Hours:**

You will normally volunteer five days per week, and a regular week will be around 50 hours including evenings and weekends. During peak times and when linking with a residential group, this could be closer to 70 hours; although long hours, this is also seen as the most rewarding time as you really get to build relationships and get to know the children.

**Holiday:** During your volunteering period you will receive two days off in 7 (sometimes non-consecutive) and in addition you will accrue 1 additional free day per month which can be scheduled with your line supervisor.

**Special Requirements:** Volunteers need to provide a **certificate of good conduct /police check from their home country, application form including motivational letter, and provide two references, including one from their most recent school/ college or employer.**

**Extra Fee: 30 Euros** – to be paid to Concordia UK by bank transfer, Paypal or on arrival at the project.

Once applications have been shortlisted, a skype interview will be conducted before confirming a place.

Volunteers will be provided with £70 per week 'pocket money' and food and accommodation. The full information pack is available from the UK Volunteer programme co-ordinator.

**Closing date for applications is 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for visa applicants or 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for non-visa applicants. However, please apply as soon as possible to give you the best chance of confirming a space.**