

VOLUNTEERING

Raise awareness

Volunteering section



Learn how to do a remote or socially-distanced volunteering programme to raise awareness around a particular issue such as youth homelessness, single-use plastics or mental health.

Be creative, have fun and, if you wish, work with others to scale up your ideas and complete your Volunteering section as a team.

Suggestions for evidence

- Activity log
- Diary entries
- Photographs / short videos
- Screenshots from social media
- Copies of any resources you create



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



DofE.org

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Registered Charity No: 1072490, and in Scotland No: SC038254, and a Royal Charter Corporation No: RC000806. Registered Office: Gulliver House, Madeira Walk, Windsor, SL4 1EU

VOLUNTEERING: Raise awareness

Programme plan

Sessions can be combined or broken into multiple blocks, as long as the total time period (between session 1 and session 13) covers a minimum of three months. As a reminder, you should be doing an average of an hour of activity each week.

Session suggestion	Description
1 Find out about your chosen charity	To make the most of your DofE Volunteering section, start by doing your research. What is the background to the issue you have identified? Identify a suitable Assessor (e.g. someone whose work is connected to the issue, a family friend or your DofE Leader) and contact them to ask for an initial meeting (online or over the phone).
2 'Meet' your Assessor	When you first 'meet' your Assessor, talk to them about your goal for this section. What do you want to achieve? Share your project ideas with your Assessor and decide how the end product will look (e.g. an online campaign).
3 Start working on your project	Use your time to find out more about your project – speak to others linked to the issue you have identified to find out their needs and experiences.
4 Think about your target audience	Who do you want to influence or persuade with this project? What is the message you want to send to them? What will be the best way to communicate with your target audience, or to engage them in conversations.
5 Start sharing your project more widely	Create publicity materials (images, information, videos – anything to share on social media!) and start to share your project with friends and family.
6 Continue your project work	Now that the word is out about your project, spread the message more widely! Could you contact your local newspaper or radio station?
7 Check in with those you are supporting	Arrange a catch up with those you are supporting – do they have any feedback?
8 Review your progress with your Assessor	Make sure you catch up with your Assessor to show them what you have done so far – do they have any suggestions or improvements, or do you need any support?

VOLUNTEERING: Raise awareness

Programme plan

Session suggestion	Description
9 Use social media	Advertise your project on social media. Can you put an update on local websites or on social media? Tell your family and friends about your project and keep spreading the word!
10 Be proactive	Write to your local MP highlighting the importance of the issue you have identified, and outlining the work you have done so far as part of this project.
11 Respond to any correspondence / queries	Make sure you leave time to respond to any emails, letters or comments on social media – it's important to engage with everyone that you have reached out to so far during this project.
12 Celebrate!	Share your successes with those you have been supporting – find out if there is anything that you can do to continue to raise awareness after the end of your Volunteering section.
13 Evaluate your project	Make a note of your key successes and any challenges you faced during this project. Talk to your Assessor about your achievements during your time volunteering. Hand over to the next participant or group, or share your experiences with the next DofE cohort in your centre.