



jobs.org.uk/volunteer

volunteers@yha.org.uk







Benefits of volunteering

- Meet new people
- Learn new skills, or if you are already an experienced hand - share your skills with others
- Explore somewhere new
- Develop your independent travel skills
- Support the work of YHA
- Get some great team working and project experience
- Enjoy the feeling of making a positive difference to others by gifting your help and support
- Help us to care for the special locations in our network, and keep hostelling thriving for future generations

How it Works

STEP

Read through the events listed in the guide



Select which events you would like to go on



Get in touch with the contact listed to book on an event

Helpful Information

Age

You need to be 16 years or over to stay overnight at a YHA. If the event is local to you, and you don't need accommodation you can volunteer with YHA from 15 years upwards. There is no maximum age limit to volunteer with YHA.

Accommodation

Where indicated, accommodation will be available for free for volunteers during their volunteering. This accommodation will be provided without charge, and will be in same sex dormitory bedrooms.

Food

Where indicated volunteers can either self-cater and bring their own food, making use of the YHA self-catering kitchen to prepare meals, or purchase meals from the hostel at a discounted rate of £2 per course.

Travel Expenses

All volunteers taking part in an event can access help with travel costs, which varies according to how many days you volunteer.

- 1-day you can claim up to £15
- 2-days you can claim up to £30
- 3-days you can claim up to £45
- 4-days or more days you can claim up to £60

Reimbursement is claimed after the event, by completing a Volunteer Travel Expense claim form. Payment is made via BACS within 28-days of the form being received by YHA National Office.

Specific Needs

If you have any special needs please advise us on booking, so we can help to make your experience with us as enjoyable as possible.

YHA and Safeguarding

YHA as a charity is committed to creating a safe environment for everyone staying, working and volunteering with us, especially for children young people and vulnerable adults.

As part of this commitment, YHA will undertake any suitability checks needed when you apply to volunteer with us.

Free Time

In your free time, you will be able to explore the local area.

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DofE Gold Residential

Working Holidays are a great way to achieve your DofE Gold Award Residential section. YHA is an approved activity provider for DofE and will be able to complete your assessors report at the end of the event. In order for your event to qualify it must be 5 days (4 nights) long, and there must be a minimum of 5 people on your event. Please advise us on booking that you are intending to use the event to achieve your DofE Gold Award Residential section.

Enjoyable Volunteering

YHA is committed to ensuring that all necessary precautions are in place, to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable volunteering experience. YHA representatives leading your event will explain safety on site, including the safe use of tools and equipment. YHA asks volunteers to please follow any instructions given, and to advise the site representative directly if you feel unwell at any point during the event.

Photographs

YHA representatives and other volunteers may wish to take photographs to remember their experience. These images could be uploaded on to social media, or to promote the work of YHA as a charity. If you would rather not have your image taken and possibly shared, we recommend that you step out of any photo opportunities to safeguard your privacy.

Overseas Volunteers

YHA is unable to organise work permits or visas for any overseas volunteers.

Cancellations

YHA politely request that if for any reason you are unable to attend a Working Holiday, that you advise us of this as soon as possible. YHA will only cancel a holiday due to unforeseen circumstances and when there is no other option available. If YHA has to cancel a Working Holiday, we will notify you immediately using the contact details you supplied to us when booking.

Packing list

These suggestions have been shared by other volunteers who have been on Working Holidays, and may be extra helpful for those new to volunteering with YHA.

- A refillable water bottle
- Clothes to volunteer in that you don't mind getting dirty, or damaged
- Ear plugs (as accommodation will be in shared dorms)
- Slippers
- A dressing gown to nip from your room to the bathroom and back
- A warm waterproof coat, gloves, hat and stout shoes with good grip
- Some comfy, warm casual clothes to relax in for the evening
- A towel and any toiletries that you need
- A small amount of cash is handy, as with rural locations there may not be a cash point nearby.

Top Tip: Internet signal if available at the hostel can be slow. So download any e-books or programmes that you would like to view on your device, before you travel.

Making your pick

You can use the symbols below to help find the experience that is righ for you!

includes painting and decorating tasks	is close to the coast	accommodation for volunteers is provided
includes gardening and outdoor tasks	includes giving areas of the hostel a good spring clean	help with event stewarding and other event tasks is required
in a very rural location, perfect for people who like to be away from it all!	suitable for anyone wishing to achieve their DofE Gold Award Residential section	you can purchase meals from the hostel at a discounted rate
in a city location	great for public transport users!	offers volunteers a special thank you
in a countryside location	self-catering	

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Working Holidays

OCTOBER

Painting in the Lakes

YHA Langdale (Cumbria)

The Games Room at this lovely lake district hostel is looking very tired and sad. YHA would love your help to give it a makeover, and create a vibrant and interesting space for young people to play in.

Start Date End Date 8 October 9 October

For details please email lakesgroups@yha.org.uk or call 01539 437579



Seaside Scrub and Spruce up with a Surf Lesson

YHA Perranporth (Cornwall)

This coastal hostel is seeking volunteers to help give it a spruce up for winter. Tidying the garden and painting interior rooms is on offer. In return for help a special meal on the last evening will be provided for volunteers, and the Hostel Manager (an experienced surfer) will give volunteers a free surf lesson.

Start Date End Date 9 October 13 October

For details please email perranporth@yha.org.uk or call 01872 573812















Riverside Painting Opportunity

YHA Wye Valley (Herefordshire)

On the banks of the river Wye with stunning views. Help is needed to paint internal and external areas. As a thank you volunteers will be treated to a traditional 'fish and chip' supper on the Wednesday evening. Don't worry - you don't have to catch your own fish!

Start Date End Date 31 October 3 November

For details please email wyevalleymanager@yha.org.uk or call 01594 860300



Decorating by the Tweed

YHA Berwick (Berwick-Upon-Tweed)

In the market town of Berwick an inspiration to Lowry, volunteers will get the chance to help paint internal rooms, and give spaces a spring clean.

Start Date End Date 31 October 4 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















NOVEMBER

Cycle Shed Project

YHA Dufton (Cumbria)

Volunteers will help to knock down the existing cycle shed and create a level concrete base for the new shed to sit on.

Start Date End Date 7 November 11 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Whitby Grounds Tidy

YHA Whitby Yorkshire (North Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping cut back overgrown areas around the hostel grounds. Please be aware that volunteers will be accommodated at YHA Dalby Forest on Wednesday and Thursday evening- but transfer to the hostels via cars will be provided by YHA staff.

Whitby train station is only accessible via the Middlesbrough line, but train access to Scarborough or York is excellent with connecting bus services. To thank volunteers for their help, a free tour of Witby Abbey will be arranged.

Start Date End Date 7 November 11 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Gardening in Penzance (Pirate free we promise)

YHA Penzance (Cornwall)

Help is needed to tame this lovely, but rather overgrown Cornish garden, to create a peaceful and tranquil space for guests to relax in. As a thank you volunteers can check in on the Sunday evening, to have extra time to enjoy the stunning area.

Start Date End Date 7 November 10 November

For details please email penzancemanager@yha.org.uk or call 01736 362666













Paint it in Cheddar

YHA Cheddar (Somerset)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of hostel, and give the garden some TLC! As a thank you volunteers can stay for free for the weekend, to make the most of the area (checking out on Monday 14 November)

Start Date End Date 7 November 11 November

For details please email cheddarmanager@yha.org.uk or call 01934 742494















Hostel tidy at Hawkshead

YHA Hawkshead (Cumbria)

This stunning lakes hostel is looking for volunteers to help give rooms a spruce up with a lick of paint, and help tidy the garden. The Stagecoach bus 505 runs from Windermere to Hawkshead, stopping 1 mile from the hostel.

Start Date End Date 7 November 11 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Street Painting Party

YHA Street (Somerset)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of the hostel, with gardening and cleaning tasks also available to volunteers. To thank volunteers for their help, the hostel have arranged for volunteers to be able to stay for free the night prior to the event (13 Nov) and night after, checking out on the 18 Nov.

Start Date End Date 14 November 17 November

For details please email cheddarmanager@yha.org.uk or call 01934 742494

























On the English Edge!

YHA Lands' End (Cornwall)

Volunteers will be helping to undertake a garden tidy, with some painting of interior rooms on offer as well. Volunteers are able to explore the area during their free time, and can check in one night early on the 13 Nov between 5-8pm. You will also have the chance to enjoy the folk session in the Star Inn on Monday night, and the Open-Mic night on Thursday night.

Start Date End Date 14 November 18 November

For details please email landsendmanager@yha.org.uk or call 01736 788437















Hostel Tidy at Buttermere

YHA Buttermere (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas, give rooms a good spring clean and weather permitting tackle a grounds tidy.

Start Date End Date 14 November 18 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Painting by the Mountains

YHA Coniston Holly How (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of the hostel, and some gardening and cleaning tasks may also be available. Volunteers can come for one day or stay and help for the whole event! To thank volunteers for their help, our hostel team will be hosting a BBQ for volunteers on the last evening.

Start Date End Date 14 November 18 November

For details please email conistonhhmanager@yha.org.uk or call 015394 41323













Painting by the Lake

YHA Ambleside (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside of this lakeside hostel. As a thank you, volunteers can check in a night early on the 20 November to explore and enjoy the area. The 555 bus from Windermere/Keswick stops close by the hostel.

Start Date End Date 25 November 21 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.ukk or call 01629 592 562















Social Media and Practical Help **Needed in Liverpool!**

YHA Liverpool (Merseyside)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas, give rooms a good spring clean and there is the option of helping on a social media project. Volunteers would be asked to help take photographs and make videos of the hostel and area to promote YHA Liverpool through social media. The nearest train station is Liverpool Lime Street which is a 15-minute walk away. As a thank you to volunteers, they will be able to check in a night early (20 November).

Start Date End Date 20 November 25 November

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.ukk or call 01629 592 562















Local Tourism Project in Manchester

YHA Manchester (Manchester)

This wharf-side city hostel is seeking volunteers who can explore the vibrant city of Manchester and produce tourist guides to help guests make the most of their stay. Your tasks are to explore the attractions and research events then bring it all together in an informative guide. Although we can't reimburse entry fees to attractions, your accommodation is provided for free and we can help

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with travel expenses plus there are also plenty of free and budget places to visit. This working holiday is open to everyone and would ideally suit volunteers aged under 26 as they welcome many guests from this age group at the hostel. As a thank you volunteers can stay for free on the Friday night (3 December).

Start Date End Date 28 November 3 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562

















Paint it with Grasmere!

YHA Grasmere (Cumbria)

Help is needed by volunteers with deep cleaning and painting. As a thank you volunteers can enjoy the stunning countryside in their free time, and a complimentary stay on the Sunday (27 Nov) before the event has also been made available.

Start Date End Date 28 November 2 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Painting in the Forest

YHA Dalby Forest (Yorkshire)

Help is needed by volunteers with deep cleaning and painting.

Start Date End Date 28 November 2 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













DECEMBER

Painting by Mountains

YHA Helvellyn (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside, this much loved mountain view hostel. Weather permitting some outdoor tasks maybe available. Volunteers will help from 8.30-2.30pm to leave lots of daylight to enjoy the amazing local walks and climbs available. As a thank you, volunteers are able to check in a night early, in 4 Dec to enjoy the local area.

Start Date End Date 5 December 9 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Painting in York

YHA York (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside this much loved hostel. The nearest railway station is York and the number 2 bus from the station goes past YHA York, alternatively the hostel is a 15 minute walk along the river. To thank volunteers for their time, a complimentary stay on the Sunday 4th has been provided, and in additional on the Thursday night the group will go and enjoy a ghostly tour of York city!

Start Date End Date 5 December 9 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562























Painting at Langdale

YHA Langdale (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside this Victorian mansion. Weather permitting some outdoor tasks maybe available. As a thank you, volunteers can check in for free a night early on 11 Dec (from 5pm) to enjoy the local area.

Start Date End Date 12 December 16 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Painting at Ilam

YHA Ilam (Derbyshire)

Volunteers will be helping to keep this historic manor house looking pretty, by painting internal areas including the entrance hallway.

Start Date End Date 5 December 7 December

For details please email ilammanager@yha.org.uk or call 01335 350212











Spruce up at Slaidburn

YHA Slaidburn (Lancashire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms, tidy the garden and deep clean rooms.

Start Date End Date 12 December 16 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Spruce up in the Mountains

YHA Borrowdale (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping with a mix of painting and cleaning tasks, weather permitting some outdoor jobs could be available too.

Start Date End Date 9 December 13 December

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Painting in Mankinholes

YHA Mankinholes (Lancashire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside the hostel, give the grounds a tidy and help with deep cleaning.

Start Date End Date 16 December 20 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562











Painting at Ambleside

YHA Ambleside (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside the hostel. The 555 bus from Windermere/Keswick stops close by the hostel. As a thank you, volunteers can check in one night early on 8 Jan to enjoy the local area.

Start Date End Date 9 January 13 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



















JANUARY 2017

Painting at Keswick

YHA Keswick (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint rooms inside the hostel, and help with deep cleaning. The hostel is a short walk from Keswick train station.

Start Date End Date 16 January 20 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Helmsley Garden Tidy

YHA Helmsley (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to cut back, weed and tidy up planting in the garden, with painting on offer for wet weather. As a thank you the group can visit on the Thursday Rievaulx Abbey (English Heritage). Volunteers will need to pay for their own entrance fee £8.00 (£7.10 for over 60's), but a free guided tour of the Abbey will be given.

Start Date End Date 23 January 27 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Painting in the Mountains

YHA Honister Hause (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint and deep clean areas of this hostel-while enjoying the mountain views!

Start Date End Date 23 January 27 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Malham Painting and Garden Tidy

YHA Malham (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas, give rooms a good spring clean and weather permitting tackle a arounds tidy!

Start Date End Date 23 January 27 January

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562











Hawes Spruce Up

YHA Hawes (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint and spruce up this much loved rural hostel, getting ship shape for winter.

Start Date End Date 30 January 3 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562











Camp Ready at Windermere

YHA Windermere (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint the outside of the new camping facilities, to help them look good and sympathetic to the natural surroundings. There will also be the chance to get involved in some painting inside the hostel, deep cleaning and depending on the weather a garden tidy!

As a thank you volunteers can stay the Friday night for free (checking out on Sat 4 Feb by 10am), there will also be a group meal and a bonfire to celebrate the successes of the group!

Start Date End Date 30 January 3 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



















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FEBRUARY

Friary Spruce Up

YHA Beverley Friary (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal rooms and help with deep cleaning.

Start Date End Date 6 February 10 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



Outdoor Jobs and Dry Stone Walling

YHA Eskdale (Cumbria)

A mix of outdoor and indoor jobs are available including helping (and learning) to build a dry stone wall, varnishing outdoor tables and weeding/tidying garden areas. To thank volunteers for their help a pizza party using the special clay outdoor oven will be thrown!

Start Date End Date 6 February 10 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



Paint and Garden Tidy in **Bronte Country**

YHA Haworth (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas and (weather permitting) help to tidy garden areas. As a thank you volunteers can check in a night early on the 12 Feb to explore the area.

Start Date End Date 13 February 17 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



Riverside Painting Opportunity

YHA Wye Valley

On the banks of the river Wye with stunning views our YHA is seeking help to paint internal and external areas. As a thank you a traditional 'fish and chip' supper will be provided on the Wednesday evening. Don't worry - you don't have to catch your own fish!

Start Date End Date 19 February 23 February

For details please email wyevalleymanager@yha.org.uk or call 01594 8603002



Painting by the Mountain

YHA Coniston Holly How

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of the hostel, and some gardening and cleaning tasks may be available to volunteers also. Volunteers can come for one day- or stay and help for the whole event! To thank volunteers for their help, our hostel team will be hosting a BBQ for volunteers on the last evening.

Start Date End Date 26 February 20 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



Hostel Tidy at Grinton

YHA Grinton Lodge (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of the hostel, and some gardening and cleaning tasks may be available to volunteers also.

Start Date End Date 20 February 24 February

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



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Wasdale Hall Spruce Up

YHA Wasdale (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to deep clean areas, paint internal rooms and (weather permitting) help to tidy garden areas.

Start Date End Date 27 February 3 March

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562











Hostel Spruce Up

YHA Langdon Beck (Durham)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas and (weather permitting) help to tidy the garden areas.

Start Date End Date 27 February 3 March

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562















Boggle Adventures

YHA Boggle Hole (Yorkshire)

Volunteers will be helping to keep the approach to the hostel and surrounding grounds neat and tidy. Cutting back vegetation, weeding, litter picking and varnishing outdoor furniture are also on offer. There is a bus service to robin hoods bay from Scarborough or Whitby, the hostel is a 2 mile easy walk over Cliffs. To thank volunteers for their help, there will be plenty of cake on offer! Please bring a packed lunch with you on the day.

Start Date End Date 27 February 3 March

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562











MARCH

Painting with Mountain Views

YHA Ennerdale & Black Sail (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to tidy up the grounds, including the area around the camping barn. Some indoor painting tasks can also be made available. Help can also be given to YHA Back Sail (transport will be provided between hostels). As a thank you volunteers can check in for free a night early on 12 December from 4pm)

Start Date End Date 13 March 17 March

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562













Painting by the Mountains

YHA Patterdale (Cumbria)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of the hostel, and some gardening and cleaning tasks may be available too. There is also some outdoor tasks with maintenance to the external grounds, improving car parking facilities and helping install better pathways around the grounds. Cake will be provided to help keep energy levels up, and a last night campfire experience (weather permitting) will be arranged. Volunteers can also check in for free a night early on 12 December from 4pm to enjoy the local area.

Start Date End Date 13 March 17 March

For details please email katiesmith@yha.org.uk or call 01629 592 562



















Paint it in Cheddar

YHA Cheddar (Somerset)

Volunteers will be helping to paint internal areas of hostel, and give the garden some TLC! As a thank you volunteers, can stay for the weekend to make the most of the area (checking out on Monday 27 November)

Start Date End Date 23 March 20 March

For details please email cheddarmanager@yha.org.uk or call 01934 742494



















