

# Millennium Volunteers



Volunteering is a great way to gain new skills, meet new people, give something back to your community and have fun in the process. However, to make sure you get the most out of your volunteering you should also think about becoming a Millennium Volunteer (MV). The programme is open to anyone aged 14-25 who currently volunteers or would like to start and wants to have their commitment, skills and experience recognised.

MV has been designed to be as simple as possible and to work around you and your studies, job, hobbies and anything else you've got going on – you also get to volunteer where you like, as often as you like and in as many place as you like! As part of the programme you get a certificate backed by your organisation and the Department of Education after your first 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering, which along with the support and training your organisation provides, means you get something that looks great on your CV and job and UCAS applications and is endorsed by employers and universities!

## **What does Millennium Volunteers (MV) involve?**

MV is designed to be as straight forward as possible and work around the other things you've got going on in your life. Once you've signed up to the programme you're given your 'MV Record Book' which allows you to record the hours that you volunteer as well as some other sections that help you see the training, skills and experience you've gained through your voluntary work.

Whenever you have completed 50, 100 and then 200 hours of volunteering, let your MV co-ordinator know and they will make sure you get your certificates. It's as simple as that. You can volunteer wherever you like, in as many places as you like and as often as you like, meaning it can work around your studies, job and hobbies.

There are three types of MV available - don't worry though, your MV co-ordinator in your school or organisation will tell you which one you will complete and there's no extra work involved no matter which path you choose:

- **MV Schools** is for you if you volunteer in or through your school; instead of a 50 hour certificate you get a special 'School Certificate' signed by your principal.
- **MV Sport ~ GoldMark** is for you if your volunteering is within a sport club or organisation.
- **MV Pure** is for everyone that doesn't volunteer in their school or with a sport club.

### **What does Millennium Volunteers (MV) do for me?**

MV is all about getting you recognition for your volunteering - you get certificates backed by the Department of Education after you complete your first 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering. You can then use these when updating your CV or filling out job or UCAS applications to make yourself stand out. By signing up to do MV your organisation also commits to provide you training and support to help you during your volunteering - this is all great experience that you can use when looking for a job or applying to study at university or college.

### **Does Millennium Volunteers count volunteering outside of Northern Ireland?**

Once you are signed up you can count all the volunteering you do within the UK and Ireland as well as overseas. For overseas volunteering, you can only count the travel time and the time you actually spent volunteering - so this doesn't include when you're sleeping or have free time. For more information on what parts of your overseas volunteering you can count, speak to your MV coordinator in your school or organisation.

### **Does Millennium Volunteers count travel time as volunteering?**

According to the Northern Ireland Executive, volunteering involves giving up your time and energy for the benefit of society without payment or compulsion. Therefore some travel time can be counted towards achieving your MV award, especially if you live in a rural area - for more information on whether or not you qualify to have your travel time counted, contact your MV coordinator in your school or organisation.

### **I've just started Millennium Volunteers, can i backdate my hours?**

If your organisation or school has just signed up to Millennium Volunteers, you are generally allowed to backdate your hours by between three and six months. If your organisation has been with Millennium Volunteers for a while you should be able to backdate up to a year, although this depends on the number of hours of volunteering you have done. If you have any questions about backdating your hours, contact your MV coordinator in your school or organisation.

For more information about the Millennium Volunteer Programme look at the Volunteer Now website – [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk)