

The West of England Sport Trust ( Wesport ) has been awarded ASA funding for the Young Aquatics Volunteers programme for 2009/2010.

This document outlines the Wesport /ASA South West PESSYP (Physical Education, School Sport and Young People) Young Volunteers projects for 2009– 2010 that your club can be involved in.

The initiative forms a partnership between the ASASW, County Sports Partnerships, Step Into Sport and hopefully your club!

The PESSYP young volunteers programme involves young volunteers (14-19 yrs old) from clubs, schools, or local colleges being invited to assist with activities within a swim21 club environment and gain an insight in to the role and structure and management of a voluntary sports club.

The young volunteers will be required to provide a minimum of 25 hours voluntary service within a swim 21 club, which can include a variety of different tasks over four different areas.

The objective is to increase voluntary involvement within swimming clubs through a proactive working relationship. The young volunteers will also be offered additional development opportunities such as officials courses, team manager training, and young aquatic organiser awards

Please note this opportunity is offered to volunteers from all aquatic disciplines and to those not from aquatics allowing them to experience not only volunteering but a new sport!

The programme will only be hosted by clubs identified by ASA Southwest as being Swim 21 accredited or, as 'actively working towards Swim 21' and is therefore, we feel, well equipped to provide a quality opportunity for a new young volunteer.

Lots of young people enjoy being involved as organisers, coaches, officials and administrators, and clubs can benefit from their essential contribution. Volunteers need to be positively encouraged to get involved in sport and feel valued and supported in their role. Through this programme opportunities will be created for young people to access swimming and contribute to the club environment.

We will expect clubs to utilise the volunteer's time effectively and efficiently, allowing them to volunteer within a safe infrastructure, where they know what is expected of them.

There are a number of benefits clubs will gain from registering with the programme, including:

- A wider base of volunteers
- Reduction in workload
- New and fresh ideas
- New skills and additional qualified teachers/coaches/officials
- Energy and enthusiasm
- Investment for the future

There are unlimited places offered to all swim 21 clubs and the club is expected to provide a member of club personnel (head coach, level 2 coach or above or committee member) to act as a mentor throughout the young person's experience.

Ideally we would ask that the clubs volunteer coordinator will act as the young persons mentor. However the supervision of the young person may change, depending on the nature of the activity.

Volunteers will be invited to complete and submit application forms, which are attached with the programme framework.

Yours Sincerely  
Jackie Hilleard  
Sports Project Officer  
West of England Sport Trust ( Wesport)