



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Would you like to help support The Bright Foundation achieve its mission in using the arts to create happier, healthier children and young people?

We are launching a volunteering programme in 2023. There are a range of opportunities including helping at our family festival, supporting the workshops we deliver to schools, being part of the welcome team at our theatre performances, or gardening and groundswork to help maintain our beautiful land.

Volunteers will undertake an induction and training programme to prepare for your role. We can cover travel expenses for days you are requested to work. All volunteers will have to get a DBS check before starting and will be asked to provide two recent references.

WHO ARE WE?

The Bright Foundation is an arts education charity founded in June 2022 by Academy Award Winning Costume Designer John Bright.



Our vision is for all children to have their imagination sparked by a quality cultural education, regardless of their background.

We offer a programme of life enhancing creative learning to children and young people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage.

Our programme includes school visits, summer schools, performance projects, cross-curricular learning, wellbeing retreats, volunteering, family festivals, skills training, and career support.

The Barn Theatre is a 50 seat children's theatre and workshop studio that presents inspirational puppet shows and theatre productions to children, young people, and their families. The adjoining museum showcases John Bright's personal collection of period toys, puppets and theatre sets dating from the 18th century to the present day.

Most of our work throughout the year is focused on schools and local groups. Our public activity happens mainly in school holidays and occasional weekends.

We are committed to offering free access to schools, local groups and those who face barriers to participating in the arts. For our public programmes we operate a Pay What you Can scheme.

We are a small, friendly team of 5 permanent staff. We work with a range of local creatives and visiting theatre companies to deliver our programme. Our workshops and events currently take place at the Barn Theatre and Museum at Rodgers Farm, Stonestile Lane, Westfield, TN35 4PH



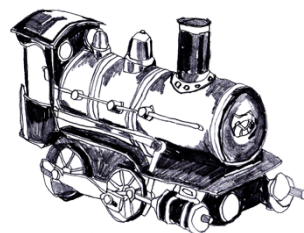
Summer Project 2022

The Benbow Arts Space in the heart of St Leonards will be opening in December 2023. It will be an exhibition and community arts space offering career training to young people.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

Through volunteering with us you will be:

- Directly helping children in your local community
- Using your skills to give something back
- Sharing a love of creativity with the younger generation
- Engaging with your local community and our network of volunteers
- Gaining valuable experience in an exciting new organisation set up solely to provide opportunities for children and young people, especially those experiencing disadvantage



We can promise that:

- You will be valued and respected as a volunteer
- You will have a clear explanation of your volunteering role, responsibilities, and expectations
- You will get a full introduction to volunteering at The Bright Foundation
- You will have an identified point-of-contact for guidance, supervision, and support and feedback
- You will be supported to develop the skills required for your volunteering role and the opportunity to take on additional roles, where appropriate
- the skills you bring and your contribution to The Bright Foundation will be recognised
- The Bright Foundation is committed to promoting equal opportunities. Volunteering opportunities are open to all regardless of age, race, disability, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, nationality, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or maternity. We recognise the positive benefits a diverse volunteer pool can bring to the organisation and is committed to ensuring our recruitment and selection procedure reflects this. A copy of our Equalities and Diversity Policy is included in the Volunteer Induction pack.
- We are committed to providing a welcoming, engaging and accessible experience for all our staff and volunteers as well as our visitors. Please do let us know if you have any access support needs.

There are a range of opportunities to volunteer in a beautiful, countryside environment. You may want to help us deliver our School and Group Experience Days, or volunteer at our public events, such as our two-day family festival. You will be asked if you have a preference as to the activities you'd prefer to volunteer for.

Please note the Barn Theatre and Museum is in a rural position and is not served by public transport. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide transport to and from the farm.

TRAINING

We will give you a full induction and you will complete a Safeguarding course prior to starting.

EXPENSES

We offer an optional daily rate of £20 per day to cover travel costs. We will reimburse

additional expenses incurred via an Expenses Claim Form (with all receipts attached). You'll be paid directly into your bank account within seven working days of having your Expense form approved. Mileage incurred as a result of your volunteering role and in addition to getting to and from the venue can be charged at 45 pence per mile.

REFERENCES

We are happy to provide references depending on the length of your time with us.



Volunteers helping out on Earth Day 2023

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete our Volunteer application form which you can find [here](#).

We will contact you within two weeks you submitting an application form. If you need help completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact us on office@thebrightfoundation.org.uk or call us on 01424 559020.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

You don't necessarily need any prior experience to volunteer with us, just a sense of team spirit, enthusiasm, and a professional approach. We need volunteers with a warm and friendly manner who can follow instructions and are happy to get involved. Experience in working with children and young people is an advantage.

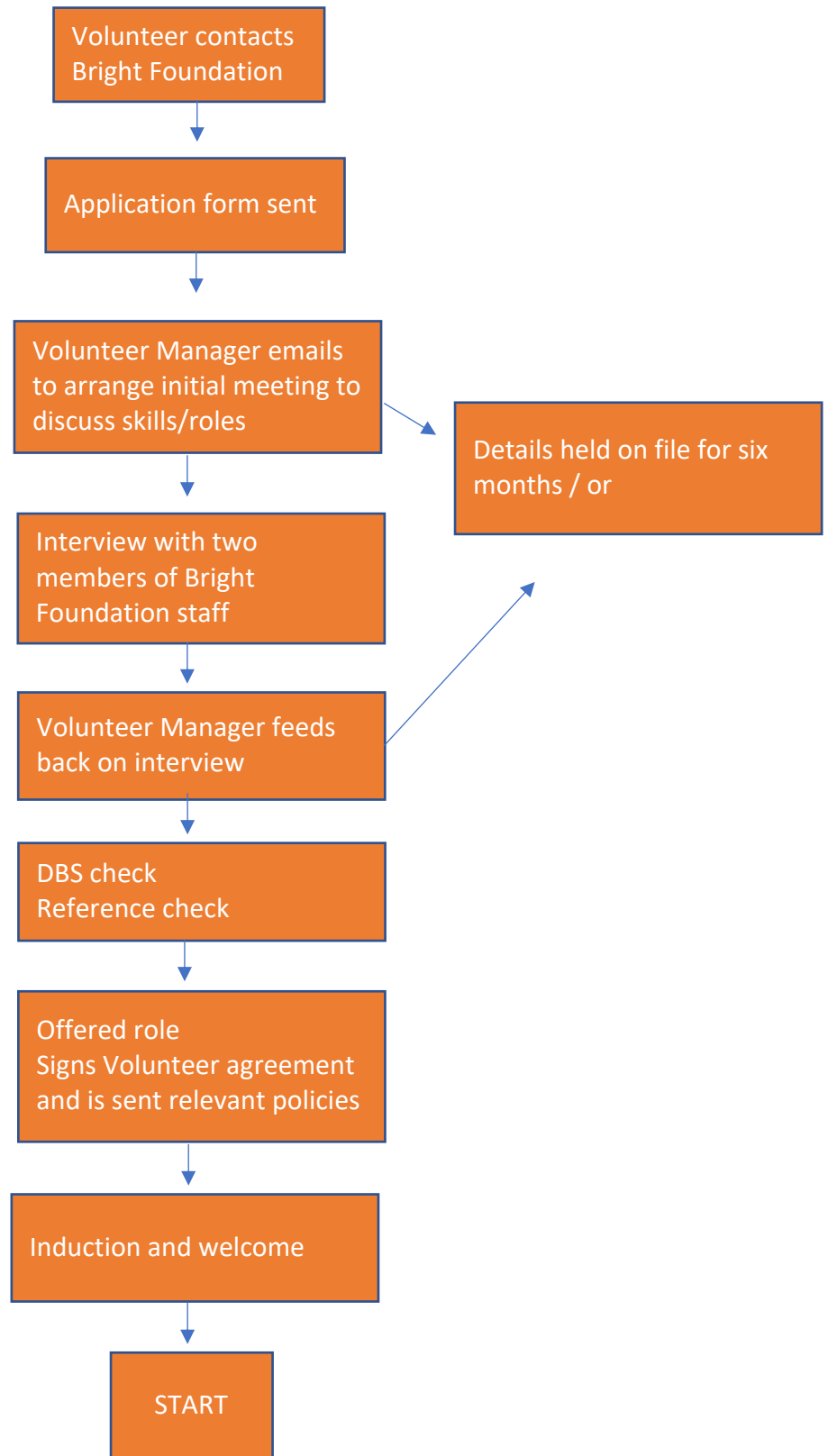
What we expect from you:

- to treat everyone you encounter in your volunteering role with respect
- a willingness to learn about The Bright Foundation, the role you play, and to be an advocate for the Foundation
- to treat information gained within the Foundation as confidential
- to let us know if you are unable to meet an agreed commitment with as much notice as possible
- to let us know of any relevant changes in your circumstances
- to meet the standards set by The Bright Foundation and to respect our reputation
- to keep a log of your hours spent volunteering. This enables us to ensure we are maximising the impact our volunteers have and also to appreciate the time that you are spending and to evaluate where our volunteers' efforts can be best utilised. (A spreadsheet for logging hours will be provided).
- to support and act in accordance with our policies and procedures
- to have read and understood the following policies and procedures prior to starting in your role:
 - Volunteers Policy
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Safeguarding Children
 - Risk Assessment and Emergency Procedures



School & Group Experience Days

PROCESS



FAQS

1. How much time do I need to commit?

We can be very flexible with the amount of time that you commit. You may like to volunteer just occasionally for our public events, or you might like something more regular. We will discuss your time commitment and role in our initial meeting.

2. How quickly can I start?

Before you can start volunteering with us, we will conduct online interviews. We have limited opportunities for volunteering, please do not be offended if we can't offer you something immediately. If we have a role for you, we will need to run a DBS check and follow up on your references. Once these are sorted, you can start as soon as you are ready.

3. Do I have to be a certain age to volunteer?

Generally, our roles would suit people over 18, but we would be happy to discuss a volunteer or young ambassadors' role if you are under 18 - please just get in contact.

4. What skills and experience do I need?

The role you would like to volunteer for will depend on what specific skills and experience you need. Enthusiasm, reliability and being a great advocate for The Bright Foundation is what we ask of you.

5. Will I get training?

We want to ensure that you feel happy and confident to carry out your role. You will initially meet with your line manager to discuss the role and what is required of you. There will be a day's induction and you will also receive Safeguarding training.

6. Do I need to live locally?

At present all of our volunteering roles are in person. The Barn Theatre and Museum is in a rural location outside Hastings and is not served by public transport. We are not able to provide transport to and from the venue so you will need to drive or organise your own transport to and fro.

7. Will the Bright Foundation cover my expenses?

Yes, we offer an optional daily rate of £20 per day. We will also cover some other expenses specified in the expenses section in your starter pack.

8. Will I meet the other volunteers?

We want you to feel a part of the team. We will offer regular catchups both with members of staff and other volunteers. You will be invited to social events and to public events.

9. What if I change my mind about my role?

We understand that circumstances change and sometimes a volunteer role doesn't suit you. If you're unhappy or dissatisfied in any way do let us know. We may be able to find a role that works for you better.

10. What if I have additional support needs, can I still volunteer?

Absolutely. Please let us know how we can support you. If we haven't covered any questions that you may have, please email us at office@thebrightfoundation.org.uk