

## **Volunteer Opportunities March 2009**

Swamp Circus Trust exists to provide training facilities, classes and performances in physical performance for community access. Our work encourages group participation and cooperation, raises confidence and encourages the development of communication through sharing and learning comedy, movement, motor and balance skills.

Swamp Circus Trust has benefited the local community through its community circus work since 1986 when it was set up in a disused steel works in Sheffield by artists, dancers and acrobats from the local community. Its initial work was delivered generally on a one-off basis to groups, providing relatively short-term benefits to participants. It has since developed its work concentrating on more in depth projects involving participation from local schools, youth groups, local residents and a number of partners. We have found that these longer-term projects with community involvement are of longer-term benefits to the communities within the local area.

We currently have a number of voluntary opportunities available. These opportunities are flexible in terms of time commitment. Most are flexible with respect to days/dates too - exceptions are noted.

For all opportunities, travel expenses will be paid. If a CRB check is required, we can arrange that for you (and will pay for it) but if you have one already, please bring it with you to interview.

For volunteers under 25, it will also be possible to enrol for the Arts Award (Bronze or Silver) and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

A number of volunteers with Swamp have gone on to find further employment in the arts field, or onto further circus based training, so it can be a good stepping stone for the future!

If you are interested in any of the opportunities attached, please get in touch with the Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Nic on 01709 828477 or [nic@swamptrust.org.uk](mailto:nic@swamptrust.org.uk)

Swamp Circus is fully committed to Equal Opportunities.

### **Volunteer Assistant Workshop Tutor**

This opportunity will involve learning simple circus skills and helping teach them to young people. You will also assist with planning of workshop sessions with the core tutors, as well as assisting with maintenance and care of equipment. You may be required to prepare refreshments (juice and fruit) for session breaks if applicable.

Currently, we require support on most afternoons for the after school period and Wednesday evenings. You will be working with young people of various ages from 7 to 18 - the actual age group will depend on the project.

### **Volunteer Administration Assistant**

This opportunity will be based in our office at The Magna Centre. This will provide plenty of variety to any volunteer! We are looking for someone to help answer phones and to take messages, to help with inputting data, to assist with funding applications - essential to the running of Swamp!, to help collate data for monitoring purposes and to update records. Tasks will also probably involve some filing, photocopying, general housekeeping and office duties.

### **Volunteer Video Editor**

We take a lot of footage of our projects and performers and we would like a volunteer who can edit the raw images (still and moving) into exciting, coherent short films which we can share with our participants, funders, potential funders and on our website. We have an excellent, powerful PC for this in our office at the Magna Centre which runs Adobe Premiere Pro.

### **Volunteer Website Developer**

We are looking for a volunteer with flair and knowledge of websites to help make ours exciting, fun and up to date. The team will supply content, but we'd like you to take the basic text and make it look good on the internet. A knowledge of Dreamweaver would be useful.

### **Volunteer Workshop Support Worker**

We require help with some of our extended services delivery workshops. This opportunity will not involve teaching circus skills (unless you want to) but will be more of a pastoral/caring role, helping take care of the young people, preparing refreshments, supervising the lunch break etc. The hours would be 10.00am – 4.00pm and various sessions are available.

### **Volunteer Marketing Assistant**

Swamp Circus provides entertainers to many companies and organisations throughout the UK and further afield. It brings in funds which helps support our community work, and we need a volunteer to help in publicising this aspect of our work. We need assistance in updating our client records, calling them to check their details are correct, preparing email shots, replying to queries (phone and email), writing copy, liaising with performers to check we have photos and details etc, preparing mailshots, and telephone follow up.

### **Volunteer Development Worker**

Swamp uses circus in many ways in the community – previous projects have included working with young homeless people, developing a show called “Wicked Waste” which toured schools, and combining circus skills with community leadership on a NOCN course. We have other ideas in the pipeline but if you have an idea of your own, we will help you work it through from the initial idea to a ready to roll project – or you can help us with one of ours. You never know, this could possibly lead to paid employment as a Community Project Manager if your idea takes off!