

Volunteer Case Study

Name: Rowena Gordon

Date: June 2012

Event you volunteered at: Jack Petchey Table Tennis Events



Why did you decide to volunteer?

I was studying a Sports Leadership course at Leyton College during my A levels, and was given the great opportunity to volunteer for Jack Petchey. Being an aspiring photographer, I believed it was perfect timing for myself to experiment within the sports photography field.

Was this your first experience of Volunteering?

No, this was not my first experience of Volunteering. I had always been involved in volunteer work since I was in Primary school. However, volunteering for ETTA gave me great insight of what to expect within the sports photography field.

How many hours have you volunteered for the JP events?

I volunteered for JP events for just over a year. The hours were intense and were rather unpredictable. However I know that for each daily event I would cover no less than roughly 7-8 hours.

What were the highlights of volunteering for the JP events?

There are many highlights of volunteering for the JP events. Some of which are:

- Gaining the real first-hand experience of being a sports photographer.
- Interacting with the youth who were participating within the JP events. This was the most rewarding aspect of volunteering, as I have built relationships where I have been recognised for my work.
- Improving on my time management and deadlines.
- Increasing my organisation skills.

What could have improved your volunteering experience?

A few things which could have improved my volunteering experience are:

- Means of transport. Particularly when having to travel a great deal of distance, in an unfamiliar environment. Travelling with expensive and heavy equipment is not always the easiest and I believe that organised transport would have been very helpful.
- Though this was a volunteering experience, the hours were of a working status. I felt that I was involved in an unpaid internship at times rather than volunteering due to the amount of hours needed to be covered. (An introduction to the amount of hours predicted to be covered could be helpful)

What Next?

I have been working as photojournalist and nude photographer in various locations abroad, including Spain and France. I still aim to study at Brighton University in the near future and have decided upon Psychology rather than Photography. I am still involved in volunteer work whenever I do have the rare free time to dedicate my full focus. I strongly encourage people to volunteer, even if they have slight interest in a field. Volunteering could influence your thoughts and interests.