

Volunteer information pack

Information pack and application form



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“ I find volunteering with Thirtyone:eight so rewarding! It gives me the chance to use my skills, and to do things I wouldn't normally get to do. I've had some great experiences, learnt new things, and met some really great people too! It has also given me the confidence to get back into paid employment after raising my children. It's a great place to volunteer! ”



Beth, Events Volunteer



Welcome

This information pack is for anyone wanting to know more about volunteering with Thirtyone:eight. It contains all the information you may need as you consider getting involved in our work and whether volunteering with Thirtyone:eight is right for you.

As the UK's leading independent Christian safeguarding charity, we are passionate about creating safer places together. We are always looking for people who share our vision and values to support us in our work by giving their time, skills, knowledge and experience.

With roles from office administration, events and exhibitions support, Trustees, and specialist safeguarding roles, there are many ways you can get involved.

Sometimes people are unsure about what volunteering with us may involve, or whether it is right for them, so we hope this pack will help answer some of your questions.

If after reading this you decide you would like to become a volunteer, please see our list of current volunteer roles on our website, and apply using the application form.

If you have any further questions or would like more information, please email us at hrteam@thirtyoneeight.org or to speak to someone call us on 0303 003 11 11 (select option 5) and we'll be happy to help.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us.

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Why volunteer with Thirtyone:eight?

Volunteering is good for you!

At Thirtyone:eight we believe that volunteering should benefit both the charity, and you the volunteer. Volunteering is known to be a great way to improve your sense of purpose and belonging, connect with others and contribute meaningfully to a good cause. It has also been shown to improve wellbeing and reduce isolation. Benefits from volunteering include things such as:

- **Giving you a feeling of purpose and self-worth**
- **Making a difference and having a positive impact on peoples' lives**
- **Using and developing existing skills in varied and rewarding roles**
- **Improving health, wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem**
- **Meeting new people from a range of backgrounds and making friends**
- **learning new skills and building experience for employment**
- **Creating positive feelings and a sense of reward**
- **Feeling part of a caring and supportive team**

Why choose to volunteer with Thirtyone:eight?

In volunteering for thirtyone:eight, you'll get the chance to make a real difference, gain valuable experience, further your employment prospects and gain new skills – all while helping create safer places for everyone, places that support and protect those impacted by harm and abuse.

Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds and communities and volunteer with us for a variety of reasons. There are many ways you can get involved.

You're part of fulfilling our vision

Our vision is a world where every child and adult can feel, and be, safe. Every person who is part of Thirtyone:eight is able to see the direct impact the work they are doing - whether paid or voluntary - has, and the difference this makes to our members, supporters and all those who come to us for help and advice.

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How we make a difference

About Thirtyone:eight

Thirtyone:eight is the UK's leading independent Christian safeguarding charity which helps individuals, organisations, charities, faith and community groups to protect vulnerable people from abuse.

To do this, we provide training, consultancy, disclosures and a safeguarding helpline, making sure everyone is equipped and empowered with the tools they need. We are leading experts in safeguarding, working with government to inform legislation and promoting high standards in safeguarding practice.

Trusted for over 40 years, we work together with a network of thousands of member organisations to make sure that standards for safeguarding are upheld and protected.

How we work

- **We are independent, experts providing a complete safeguarding solution.**
- **We educate, inform, support and equip churches, faith groups, organisations, individuals, and government with the tools they need to protect vulnerable people.**
- **We recognise that it's only by working together that standards in safeguarding will rise, which is why 'together' is at the core of everything we do.**
- **We do this because we are Christian, which means we are compelled to care for and protect vulnerable people.**

We are members of the Christian Safeguarding Forum (CFS), UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), Association of Christian Counsellors and the Christian Helplines Association. We are also a partner agency with CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre).

 **Association of
Child Protection
Professionals**




The CPD Certification
Service



Our vision

Our vision is a world where every child and adult can feel, and be, safe.

It is a big vision, and it's what drives us because we believe that when a person or organisation shares this vision, transformation takes place, safer places are created and people's lives are impacted for the better.

Our mission

We will **equip** society with the knowledge and skills to create safer environments for children and adults at risk.

We will **empower** society to respond appropriately to those who are vulnerable or have experienced abuse.

We will **encourage** society to stand against oppression and exploitation by informing legislation and striving to raise the standards in safeguarding practice.

Our values

Our values are what make us tick. They are how we behave and how we communicate. They are what you can expect from us, our DNA:

Christian:

We are a Christian organisation, who are inspired to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' as we believe God told us to. This is the foundational pillar of all our work.

Thought leader:

We are experts at the forefront of raising safeguarding standards, and we share our knowledge with churches, organisations and the government, as well as the general public.

Respectful:

We are honest and have strong moral principles. We are transparent and fair in everything we do.

Empowering:

We want other organisations and groups to grow in knowledge and confidence – that's why we share our knowledge and encourage people to use it.

Compassionate:

We understand that every person is unique, we value and care for every person who needs our help and treat them accordingly.

Our people

Thirtyone:eight is a people focussed organisation. Our people are at the heart of everything we do. Our teams comprises highly experienced and skilled professionals, all of whom have high levels of expertise that extend across a wide range of professions and backgrounds.

Why we need volunteers

As a charity that receives no government funding, Thirtyone:eight is reliant upon the generous support of our member organisations, supporters, donors and volunteers to meet the ever-increasing demand for our specialist help and support. As the need for our advice and expertise increases year on year, volunteers allow our funds to go that bit further and enables us to benefit from a wider range of skills and expertise so that we can do even more, to help even more people



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Who would make a good volunteer?

Volunteering is something everyone can do

Anyone can be a good volunteer as we all have different experiences and skills to share, and we all have something we are good at. Here are some of the things we at Thirtyone:eight are looking for in our volunteers:

- **Aged over 18**
- **Able to commit to a role, be available at the agreed times, and meet the requirements of the role**
- **Able to follow guidelines on confidentiality and safeguarding**
- **Communicate regularly with your volunteer manager and provide feedback, as required**
- **Willing to do a relevant background check (i.e. DBS, PVG, Access NI) and provide two names for a reference**
- **Be open, friendly and honest**
- **Support and be sympathetic to our vision, mission, and values**

Our volunteers should be able to understand and follow the boundaries, policies and procedures of the organisation. All volunteers are expected to undertake an induction.

What about if I have a disability or medical condition?

As long as you meet the requirements of the role, we welcome your application. We will work with you to discuss any specific support needs, or consider any reasonable adjustments that will make volunteering with us accessible for you.

Can I volunteer if I have a criminal record?

As a safeguarding charity we have a zero tolerance approach to abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people, so carry out background checks on all potential volunteers, as part of our safer recruitment processes.

Having previous cautions or convictions does not automatically exclude you from volunteering with us. We will discuss these with you as part of the application process and consider each situation on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the offences and the level of risk involved with the role.



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What can you expect from us?

What you can expect.

At Thirtyone:eight we value our volunteers highly and recognise that volunteering has two way benefits. As part of our commitment to our volunteers here's what you can expect from us:

- **A full induction and relevant training**
- **Regular communication**
- **Opportunity to work as part of a team**
- **Opportunity for Personal Development**
- **Opportunities to apply for internal job vacancies**
- **Reimbursement of travel expenses for mileage, train fares and bus fares up to £15 a day for those volunteers who are office based and as needed to attend team days**
- **Reimbursement of travel expenses for mileage, train fares and bus fares as needed for volunteers who are home based to meet their line manager and attend team days.**

Supervision and support

Informal supervision will happen regularly with your line manager and formal supervision will take place at least quarterly. These focus on you as an individual and not only help us understand how we can better help with your work and personal development, but also ensure that we are offering relevant, appropriate support.

Learning and development

All training relevant to the role will be given and you'll gain skills and experience working in a busy office. Through regular supervision, additional learning and development opportunities are highlighted. Where possible and appropriate, we ensure that your development needs are being met and also the charity benefits from that training.

Flexible working

We understand the importance of being at those significant 'red-letter' days. Where volunteers have committed to set days / hours, we will, of course, be flexible so that you can be at those important events.





Call us 0303 003 11 11 (option 5)
email us hrteam@thirtyoneeight.org
or visit thirtyoneeight.org
follow us @thirtyoneeight
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Creating safer places. Together.