



Ocean Youth Trust North

Volunteering onboard James Cook.

You are a few simple steps away from becoming a volunteer with the Ocean Youth Trust North.

Step 1: Please fill in the Volunteer Application form and return it to the office. Please also complete the Enhanced CRB form and return it with copies of your passport, driving license, proof of national insurance no and proof of address (either a bank statement or utility bill will suffice).

Step 2: Once your application is processed and your references checked we will contact you.

Step 3: We will invite you on an induction weekend with other potential volunteers on a specified date on which you can reserve a place by contacting the office. The cost of this weekend is £180 per person and covers all equipment, clothing, insurance and food.

Step 4: Once the induction weekend is completed if you are still interested in joining our team the Staff Skipper will complete an end of voyage review. Subject to that we will then send off your Enhanced CRB form for processing. Once this process is completed we will enter you into our Volunteer Training Scheme and invite you to take part in a familiarisation voyage with a group of young people. On this familiarisation voyage you will be supported by a member of our current Sea Staff whilst onboard. This will enable you to learn the ropes before having the responsibility of your own watch.

Step 5: You are now a fully fledged Volunteer and you will be informed of up and coming voyages upon which you can reserve a volunteer berth. There is no further charge for these berths and no maximum on how many voyages you can volunteer on provided spaces are available. Unlike other charities we do not ask you to pay a membership fee but we do expect you to sign up as a Friend of OYT at a cost of £60 per annum. This money goes towards your food, fuel and other expenses incurred during sailing on James Cook. This is payable once you are officially a Volunteer and from then on will be payable annually in February of each year you volunteer with us.

What happens on an induction weekend?

The aim of the weekend is for you to experience what life onboard James Cook entails and to meet our Skipper and a selection of current volunteers. During the voyage you will get a feel for how we sail our vessel and what is expected of a volunteer. As a volunteer it is just as important that you are able to engage with the young people that sail with us as it is that you are able to sail. We are looking for friendly, motivated team players who will be comfortable working with young people between the ages of 12 -25 years. Basic sailing experience and common sense is the minimum requirement as we can teach you the skills you will need during your induction and familiarisation voyages.

How much time will you have to commit?

We ask our Volunteers to commit to an induction weekend; a familiarisation voyage and at least one youth voyage per season. As places are limited we would ask you to carefully consider if you can meet our minimum requirement before applying.

What is the Volunteer Training Scheme?

We encourage all our volunteers no matter what their sailing experience to work towards their relevant sailing qualifications and other qualifications such as first aid and food hygiene. Being a volunteer on James Cook is not just about giving us some of your time. We would like to give something back and help your personal development whilst onboard.