

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION | Reserve Leader

Overview

The Reserve Leader role is a role we offer to Approved Leaders who are either:

- a) On the waiting list to be placed on a programme.
- b) Unable to commit to all dates for a programme but would like to help at Young Explorer training events.

Waiting List for Programmes

Leadership teams change in the build up to a programme for a wide variety of reasons. Ready to step onto a programme at late notice, Reserve Leaders help build capacity and security in our Leadership teams.

Training Event Support

We are looking for Leaders who are happy to muck in with a variety of tasks to assist in the smooth running of training events that support Young Explorers or Adventurers through the next stage of their British Exploring Society journey. This may include working directly with young people as an additional Fire Leader.

Responsibilities

All Reserve Leaders will be required to attend both our Leader Induction and Leader Training Weekend. These are our minimum training requirements to work safely with young people in outdoor environments.

Waiting List for Programmes

Reserve Leaders on a programme waiting list are also required to attend any relevant online role specific training and in person technical assessment. This is so that you are ready to step seamlessly onto the programme in the case that another Leader withdraws.

Training Event General Support

Tasks and responsibilities will depend on your skills and experience, the needs of the event, and the needs of the young people. Support roles at training events are dynamic with overlapping responsibilities which can flex to wherever the need is at the time.

Additional Fire Leader at Training Event

You may be asked to increase the leadership capacity of a Fire. In this case, you will work directly with young people to support them through their training event.

Although Fire Leaders bring with them different strengths and skills, you will all work together to ensure the safety, wellbeing and development of the Young Explorers in your Fire. You will inspire participants to engage fully in the training, share your knowledge, and support the building of a strong team.

Please see the Fire Leader role descriptions below for further information:

- [Adventure Leader](#)
- [Paddle Leader](#)
- [Social Leader](#)
- [Knowledge Leader](#)

Medical Support

In addition to the above responsibilities, we may ask Reserve Medical Leaders to conduct medical screening conversations with young people and provide training to all participants on expedition health and hygiene.

Please see the Medical Leader role description for more information:

- [Medical Leader](#)

Operations & Logistics

You may be asked to provide general operational and logistical support to a training event.

This could include supporting at base camp, helping prepare and cook meals, organise and distribute personal kit or cleaning equipment, and various other ad-hoc tasks.

You may also be asked if you are available to help drive the van and load or unload the van either at the event location or at our Stores in London.

Please see the Base Camp Manager role description for further insight into possible related responsibilities:

- [Base Camp Manager](#)

Person Specification

In order to be considered for this role you must be an Approved Leader with British Exploring Society.

Safer Recruitment Requirements

British Exploring Society is committed to creating a safe environment where young people can thrive. To ensure this, all our volunteers complete an onboarding process that confirms they have the right experience, checks, and training in place before working with young people.

For this role, you will need to complete:

- **DBS check**, including an international check if you have lived outside the UK for longer than 3 months in the past 5 years.
- **Two recent references**, one of which must be a professional reference.
- **2-day British Exploring Society Leader Induction** (online). This includes safeguarding and emergency procedure training.
- **2-day British Exploring Society Leader Training** (in person). This is programme-specific training covering a range of expedition and group management skills led by professionals in your programme team.

- British Exploring Society **Standard Operating Procedures test**.
- **Mental Health First Aid** online training module provided free by British Exploring Society.
- **16 hour Outdoor First Aid** course expensable to British Exploring Society up to the value of £200. You are exempt from this requirement if you can evidence equivalent training.
- **Supporting You:** our medical and social support screening form.
- **Overseas Expeditions only:** passport checks and any required vaccinations.
- Any additional onboarding tasks as identified by British Exploring Society staff.

Building an inclusive community of Leaders

British Exploring Society is committed to building an executive and volunteer team that together represent a diverse variety of backgrounds, skills, and perspectives on the world. The more inclusive we are, the better we think we'll be at delivering our charitable aims.

Our focus is on supporting those most disadvantaged in childhood and adolescence. To deliver our charitable aims, and secure our future, our actions and behaviours must support our commitment to welcoming young people, volunteers and team members from backgrounds and life experiences which reflect our aims and the changing dynamics of contemporary life. We are making good progress providing access and programmes which work for young people from right across society, but we urgently need to diversify our staff and volunteer teams. We actively seek the energy, wisdom, and challenge of those who represent the life experiences of the young people we serve, and who can increase our effectiveness as a team.

How to apply

Please note that Reserve Leaders must be part of our existing Approved Leader pool. This means that you have passed assessment for another Leader role previously.

We recruit volunteers on a rolling basis, throughout the year.

STEP 1: [Express interest in leading with British Exploring Society](#).

STEP 2: Complete your Leader Profile application and attend a 90-minute Introductory Webinar.

STEP 3: Our Expeditions team will review your Leader Profile and, if you meet our criteria, you will be invited to book a 30-minute interview.

STEP 4: If successful at interview, you will become a British Exploring Society Approved Leader, ready to apply to join our expeditions.

If you have questions about this role please contact expeditions@britishexploring.org.