

Case study from Scouting – Scott Burton

Background

Scott is the Local Development Officer for the South East Scotland Scout Region. He trained and worked as a youth worker over the last 6 years, having previously studied chemical engineering. Before doing full-time youth work, Scott previously volunteered and helped run youth groups, did one to one youth mentoring, and actively participated in committees and planning groups.

Skills developed

People skills

As the various roles and opportunities Scott was exposed to involved working with people and being part of a team, he has been able to develop his skills of listening, communication and team working. As time went by he was given more opportunities and increasing levels of responsibility, and this enabled him to be in positions that enabled skills of negotiation and leadership to be nurtured and honed as well. These skills were not only useful in his volunteering roles but also in his university studies and employment.

Professional skills

As youth work provides such a variety of experiences, and with the additional training support of Scouting, Scott feels his people management, time management and project management skills all developed. Volunteering organisations, like any professional company, have deadlines to meet, problems to solve, plans to create and deliver upon, and people to support and lead.

Personal skills

The experience of volunteering has greatly helped Scott to develop personally, helping him to be more confident and more creative. He has had to learn to be persevering in difficult situations, and is able to juggle multiple demands and tasks whilst keeping his eye on the main goal. He feels that volunteering provided the best arena for these skills to be developed and that he is a more rounded individual for having been a part of a volunteer organisation. As he says:

“These are skills that can’t be honed in a classroom or training course, but rather are nurtured in the lived out week after week real-life situations that volunteering provides”.