

## **Community benefits of student volunteering**

Below are examples where the wider Community benefits from volunteers' input.

- “Volunteers’ help communities conserve and improve the environment through awareness-raising, campaigning and field work.
- 139,000 people in Scotland are regular volunteers in the health service. Volunteers work in hospitals and the community providing invaluable practical and emotional support in a variety of ways; from counseling to hospital radio and patient transport schemes to aromatherapy.
- Informal volunteering, which can be one component of social capital, refers to a wide range of different kinds of mutual help and co-operation between individuals within communities, for example babysitting for a friend or checking on an elderly neighbour.
- Volunteers play a key role in promoting lifelong learning in the public and voluntary sector.
- 11,000 adult volunteers give one million voluntary hours a year to Girl Guiding Scotland.”

(Scottish Government 2004)

## **Volunteering in the community**

We believe that volunteering is of huge importance and benefit to students because of the potential for gaining employability skills through the experience. By volunteering with the Scout Association, students would be able to develop skills such as planning, self-confidence, time management, project management, communication, listening and negotiation, forward thinking, lateral thinking, innovation, creativity, team working and leadership. These skills are learned, not simply in a classroom or training course, but by being lived out week after week through real-life situations. Volunteering provides the perfect arena for developing a well-rounded individual with strong employability skills.

(Scott, Scout's Association)