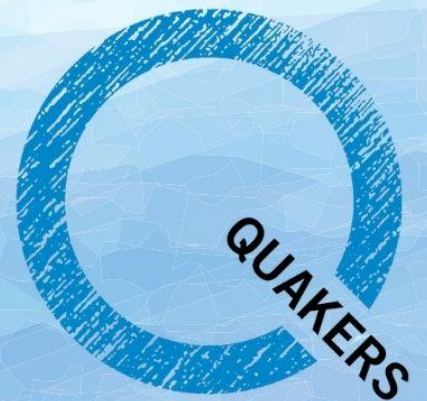


Volunteering with Children and Young People at Yearly Meeting 2025



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Information about volunteering

Being on a team at an event for children and young people gives you the chance to be part of a purposeful Quaker community, to develop your skills, to contribute to Quakers in Britain and to make a difference to their lives. If you've not done this before, don't worry - you will be offered support and training. You just need to be willing to get stuck in and help ensure participants are having a good time!

Travel expenses within Britain and accommodation costs for volunteers on all these events will be fully met.

We are committed to a safer recruitment process. New volunteers will need to have an interview before their place on the team is confirmed. This conversation is an opportunity for the staff member and volunteer to get to know each other, and it will provide space to explore the role and responsibilities that you will have on the team.

All volunteers will need to have enhanced criminal records disclosure certificates. Those on residential events or where supervising children going to the toilet will need to also be checked against "statutory barred lists". Details of how to obtain these will be sent to all who are invited to volunteer. All volunteers must provide two references.

Safeguarding training is essential in this role. This will be provided via an online platform with a 3rd party provider (likely to take about one hour) and through part of the training day for all volunteers.

The aim when recruiting is to have a team who together will offer a blend of experience and skills. It is possible that not every offer of service will be taken up. Invitations to join the event volunteer teams will be sent out on a date specified when volunteering, and it is requested that volunteers keep the dates they have offered free until this time.

As a team member working with children and young people, our intention is to be clear about what is expected of you in your role, how you are in the way you relate to others and your approaches to working with children and/or young people. You can read more about these expectations on page 5, Volunteer expectations.

Dates for diaries

March 2025

TBA	Online	Children's Programme Key Facilitators	Online planning meeting
TBA	Online or in person	Young People @ Yearly Meeting Key Facilitators	Online or in person planning meeting
TBA	Online	Junior Yearly Meeting Adult Volunteers	Pairs check-in with JYM Arrangements Committee
Fri 28 - Sun 30 March	Venue TBA	All JYM & YP Adult Volunteers	Training and planning weekend

April 2025

Fri 4 – Sun 6 April	Venue TBA	All CP Adult Volunteers	Training and planning weekend
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May 2025

Fri 23 – Mon 26 May	Rock UK Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire & Friends House, London (accommodation provided)	Junior Yearly Meeting
Fri 23 – Mon 26 May	Rock UK Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire & Friends House, London (accommodation provided)	Young People @ Yearly Meeting
Fri 23 – Mon 26 May	Friends House, London (accommodation provided)	Children's Programme @ Yearly Meeting 2025

Expectations of volunteers

Team members are asked to:

In their role

- Understand their responsibilities and work within the agreed procedures and protocols.
- Work effectively with others to undertake required training or update knowledge.
- Understand the need for confidentiality as well as the need to share information respectfully and as necessary within the agreed communication structure of the team.

In their relationships

- Treat all with equity, respect, dignity and integrity.
- Demonstrate empathy and put the needs of the child / young person first.
- Act as a role model being aware of the impact they may have on others.
- Establish close professional, trustworthy relationships with children and young people.
- Build relationships with children or young people who exhibit difficult behaviour by understanding the causes of and appropriate responses to such behaviour.
- Maintain professional boundaries with children, young people and their carers.

In their methods

- Be open, transparent and non-judgemental.
- Challenge appropriately situations where action is not being taken.
- Recognise when they need support and seek it appropriately.
- Recognise personal feelings about a situation and deal with them effectively.
- Be aware of their power and responsibility for the welfare of the children and young people.

In their work

- Attend planning and preparation meetings and the actual groups, at the agreed times.
- Attend agreed team meetings, complete all preparation and return forms promptly.
- Request help and resources as needed but in time for this help to be forthcoming.
- Ensure they have enough rest and refreshment to be able to meet responsibilities.
- Remember they are role models and keep to community agreements set for the event.
- Abide by the BYM policies for work with children and young people
- Remember YCF staff have legal responsibilities for the safe running of the event.
- Recognise that if these expectations are not upheld, volunteers may not be able to continue with the role as agreed.

BYM staff will, in addition to the above:

- Build supportive relationships with volunteers.
- Offer training and guidance on policies and procedures.
- Provide support with planning, facilitation and resources as required.
- Ensure prompt payment of expenses and provide accommodation and food as needed.
- Follow the process for handling comments, suggestions, and complaints.
- Provide adequate insurance and conditions that meet health and safety requirements.
- Recruit volunteers within the BYM recruitment and safeguarding policies.

Children's Programme

For 0- to 11-year-olds at Yearly Meeting

Overview of event

The Children's Programme is a significant and recognised part of Yearly Meeting (YM). It aims to offer an enjoyable, engaging, and challenging programme based on the YM agenda. It gives children, in age-appropriate ways, opportunities to explore their place in Quakers and the world, to make friendships, to worship, to be creative, to have fun and to play games.

The Children's Programme will run six times covering Yearly Meeting discerned sessions. The sessions will run 15 minutes before to 15 minutes after each YM session. There will be four age groups: each group has a team of three adult volunteers and a Key Facilitator. There will also be a session for 5 – 11-year-olds for the Swarthmore Lecture. Age groups are split depending on final numbers and age ranges, but it is *likely* that there will be two age groups for 0 – 5-year-olds and two for 5 – 11-year-olds. Apart from the very youngest group, each age group will have smaller groups, and each volunteer will be responsible for working with a small group. The event will take place at Friends House, London.

Adult volunteer role

This is key to the effective running of the programme and includes the following:

Responsibility: Volunteers will be responsible for taking on roles to ensure the smooth running of the age groups. All volunteers need to work within BYM's Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Policies.

Facilitation: Volunteers will work together and alongside staff to plan and organise the programmes. Volunteers share the leading and running of sessions and activities. Age group teams meet at lunch times each day to share plans and concerns.

Support: Volunteers work to encourage the spiritual and personal growth of children in a variety of ways that are age appropriate and child centred.

Relationships: Volunteers are expected to get alongside children at the event, building appropriate relationships to support participants in exploring their Quaker faith and spirituality. Volunteers are required to work in line with BYM's Event and Activity Management Policy, modelling appropriate and inclusive behaviour.

Team

Adult Volunteers: 4 volunteers will be Key Facilitators who take the lead within each age group. A total of 15 volunteers are needed for each session of the Children's Programme.

Staff: Mel Cook will be the key contact and Jude Acton Head of Inclusive Quaker Communities, will have oversight of all the CYP programmes at YM.

Commitment required

Adult Volunteer weekend: Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025 – venue TBA

Yearly Meeting: Friday 23 – Monday 26 May at Friends House, London

Key Facilitator for an age group

On the Children's and Family Programme for 0- to 11-year-olds at Yearly Meeting

Overview of role

Each of the age groups in the 0- to 11-year-olds programme at Yearly Meeting will have a Key Facilitator coordinating the volunteer team. A Key Facilitator needs to be able to work in a collaborative manner in the planning and oversight of the programme. The role is about ensuring good communication, giving clear lines of responsibility and ensuring that there is effective support for children, parents, and team members. The Key Facilitator coordinates discussions amongst the team in relation to programme planning and delivery, involving team members and enabling them to take responsibility for elements of the programme.

Key Facilitators may need to make decisions in relation to participants, team members or the programme when the circumstances do not allow for consultation with the whole team. Quaker Life staff will have overall responsibility for the programme and delegate this responsibility in part to Key Facilitators, providing support for them as needed.

Key Facilitator's role

Programme oversight

- To maintain an overview of the age group programme planning, delivery, and resources.
- To enable team members to use their skills and interests in planning and facilitating.
- To ensure that each session runs effectively, considering the needs of the children.
- To ensure that all paperwork relevant to the programme is completed as necessary.
- To ensure that guest facilitators are supported during the event.

Coordinating and supporting an age group team

- To oversee the planning of the programme in advance of the event.
- To convene meetings for their age group team at least once a day during the event.
- To support the building of appropriate relationships with children.
- To work with team members to ensure that effective pastoral care is provided.
- To be available to hear the concerns of the team members working in their age group.
- To support team members in managing challenging behaviour.
- To aid team members to work confidently - providing advice, guidance, support and ideas.

Liaison and linking

- To liaise with Quaker Life staff member in the planning and delivery of the programme.
- To liaise with other Key Facilitators – about sharing sessions, activities, or resources.
- To ensure resources required are requested in good time from Quaker Life staff.
- To liaise with parents / carers about the pastoral care and behaviour of children.
- To communicate complex or difficult pastoral care issues about participants to the Quaker Life staff team leader.
- To communicate any concerns about team members working with their age group to the staff team leader.

Commitment required

Online planning meeting: March TBA

Adult Volunteer weekend: Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025 – venue TBA

Yearly Meeting: Friday 23 – Monday 26 May at Friends House, London

Children's Programme Pastoral Support

For 0- to 11-year-olds and their families at Yearly Meeting

Overview of event

The Children's Programme (CP) is a significant and recognised part of Yearly Meeting (YM). It aims to offer an enjoyable, engaging, and challenging programme based on the YM agenda. It gives children, in age-appropriate ways, opportunities to explore their place within the Quaker community and within the world; to make friendships; to worship; to be creative; to play games and to have fun.

The Children's Programme will run six times covering Yearly Meeting discerned sessions. The sessions will run 15 minutes before to 15 minutes after each YM session. There will be up-to four age groups: each group has a team of three adult volunteers and a Key Facilitator. There will also be a session for 5 – 11-year-olds for the Swarthmore Lecture. Age groups are split depending on final numbers and age ranges. Apart from the very youngest group, each age group will have smaller groups and each volunteer will be responsible for working with a small group. The event will take place at Friends House, London.

The Children's Programme Pastoral Support role

includes the following:

- To attend the briefing sessions for responsible adults for participants on the programmes.
- To provide pastoral support for parents / responsible adults, linking as necessary with the YM pastoral support team
- To inform YCF staff of pastoral care issues relating to parents / responsible adults.
- To refer issues raised by parents / responsible adults to YCF staff.
- To address any issues relating to the YM community agreement concerning children and young people outside of CP programme time.
- To be around the CP programmes, supporting where necessary, attending team meetings for different age groups throughout the event.
- To be a 'listening ear' for volunteers who may have concerns.
- To check in with the YCF staff team and meet as required with other Quaker Life staff.
- To work with the BYM Safeguarding Officer where necessary

CP staff team

Mel Cook will be the key contact and Jude Acton, Head of Inclusive Quaker Communities will have oversight of all the CYP programmes at YM.

Commitment required

Adult Volunteer weekend: Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April 2025 – venue TBA

Yearly Meeting: Friday 23 – Monday 26 May at Friends House, London

Young People @ Yearly Meeting

For 11- to 15-year-olds

Overview of event

Young People @ Yearly Meeting Programme is a residential event that provides an opportunity for young people aged 11 – 15, connected to Quakers, to gather in community with their peers, whilst also engaging with Yearly Meeting themes in relevant ways. The event provides space for worship and exploration of concerns that are of importance to Quakers. It aims to be fun, thought provoking and exciting. The theme for the event will be agreed by the Young People's Arrangements Committee.

YP@YM 2025 is a residential event at the Rock UK Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire that will run parallel to Yearly Meeting, joining together in Friends House, central London, for the final day. The participants will initially gather at Friends House to travel together to the venue.

Adult volunteer role

This is key to the effective running of the event and includes the following:

Responsibility: Volunteers will be responsible for taking on roles to ensure the smooth running of the event and supporting the YP@YM Arrangements Committee and staff, to plan and facilitate the programme. This includes taking responsibility outside of timetabled sessions. All volunteers need to work within BYM's Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Policies.

Facilitation: Volunteers will contribute to the programme by supporting the YP@YM Arrangements Committee to plan, deliver and facilitate some activities and sessions. This should promote the programme aims and encourage young people to engage with the programme content.

Support: Volunteers will support the YP@YM Arrangements Committee by helping them to plan and reflect on their roles as facilitators, and work alongside them in sessions. Volunteers need to complete the relevant paperwork for the Quaker Youth Work Recognition Scheme. Volunteers will be required to support young people to engage with the programme.

Relationships: Volunteers are expected to come alongside young people at the event, building appropriate relationships to support participants in exploring their Quaker faith and spirituality. Volunteers are required to work in line with BYM's Event and Activity Management Policy, modelling appropriate and inclusive behavior.

Team

Adult Volunteers: Up to Five adult volunteers

Arrangements Committee: Four young people (nominated at YP@YM 2024).

Staff: Kirsty Philbrick, Quaker Life Team Leader: Children and Youth Development Work

Commitment required

Adult Volunteer weekend: Fri 28 – Sun 30 March 2025, with all adult volunteers including YP@YM & JYM

Yearly Meeting: Fri 23 (evening) – Mon 26 May, Rock UK Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire

Key Facilitator for YP@YM

For 11–15-year-olds

Overview of role

The Key Facilitator needs to be able to work in a collaborative manner in the planning process and to have an overview of the programme. The role is about ensuring good communication, clear lines of responsibility and effective support for young people, parents and team members. The Key Facilitator coordinates discussions amongst the team in relation to programme planning and delivery, involving team members and enabling them to take responsibility for elements of the programme.

Key Facilitators may need to make decisions in relation to participants, team members or the programme when the circumstances do not allow for consultation with the whole team. The Quaker Life Team Leader: Children and Youth Development Work has overall responsibility for the programme and delegates this responsibility in part to Key Facilitators providing support for them as needed.

YP@YM 2025 is a residential event at the Rock UK Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire that will run parallel to Yearly Meeting, joining together in Friends House, central London, for the final day. The participant will initially gather at Friends House to travel together to the venue.

Key Facilitator's role

Programme overview

- To maintain an overview of the age group programme planning, delivery and resources.
- To enable team members to use their skills and interests in planning and facilitating.
- To ensure that each session runs effectively, taking into account the needs of the young people.
- To ensure that all paperwork relevant to the programme is completed as necessary.
- To ensure that outside facilitators are supported during the event.

Coordinating and supporting the volunteers

- To oversee the planning of the programme in advance of the event.
- To convene meetings for their age group team at least once a day during the event.
- To support the building of appropriate relationships with young people.
- To work with team members to ensure that effective pastoral care is provided.
- To be available to hear the concerns of the team members.
- To support team members in managing challenging behaviour.
- To aid team members to work confidently - providing advice, guidance, support and ideas.

Liaison and linking

- To liaise with the Quaker Life staff in the planning and delivery of the programme.
- To request resources required from Quaker Life staff.
- To liaise with parents / carers about the pastoral care and behaviour of young people.
- To communicate complex or difficult pastoral care issues about participants to Quaker Life staff.
- To communicate any concerns about team members to the staff team leader.

Commitment required

Adult Volunteer weekend: Fri 28 – Sun 30 March 2025, with all adult volunteers including YP@YM & JYM

Additional: At least one online or in-person meeting with the AC to support planning.

Yearly Meeting: Fri 23 (evening) – Mon 26 May, Rock UK Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire.

Junior Yearly Meeting

For 15- to 18-year-olds

Overview of event

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) provides an opportunity for young Quakers aged 15 – 18 to gather in community with their peers and engage with Yearly Meeting. JYM is also about building community through socials and making new friends. It is a spiritual event with the opportunity to explore the theme in various ways and experience Quaker practices.

It is planned and facilitated by the Arrangements Committee (AC) that is made up of a group of young people, with the support of staff and adult volunteers. The AC agree on the theme and the JYM sessions as well as how they will link to Yearly Meeting.

JYM 2025 is a residential event at the Rock UK Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire that will run parallel to Yearly Meeting, joining together in Friends House, central London, for the final day.

Adult volunteer role

Volunteers are essential for making the event run smoothly.

Responsibility: Volunteers take on roles to ensure the smooth running of the event, including logistics, participating in and contributing to JYM in ways that nurture the spiritual and Quaker grounding of the event. The team will work within BYM's Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Policies.

Relationships: Volunteers are expected to be alongside participants, to enable a sense of community in both free time and sessions. They will build appropriate relationships (within the boundaries of their role) to encourage the spiritual and personal growth of participants, modelling appropriate values and behaviors in line with BYM's Event and Activity Management Policy.

Support: Adult volunteers will support a member of the AC in their planning and preparation for sessions and their development as facilitators. AC are responsible for main sessions and for base group sessions (adults support all the base groups).

Development: Volunteers will encourage reflection on the young person's practice as a leader and facilitator. They will be responsible for completing the paperwork for the Quaker Youth Work Recognition Scheme certificates.

Team

Arrangements Committee: Six young people (sharing clerk, elder and facilitation responsibilities)

Adult Volunteers: Up to ten volunteers and two reserves.

Staff: Jenny Baines – Youth Integration Coordinator (interim), Simon Hardie – Team Leader: Youth, Children and Families,

Commitment required

Adult Volunteer weekend: Fri 28 – Sun 30 March 2025, with all adult volunteers including YP@YM & JYM

Yearly Meeting: Fri 23 (evening) – Mon 26 May, Rock UK Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire