EMPLOYEE SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY MUSEUM

A HVG CASE STUDY

from gardening to gaming

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY MUSEUM SHOWS HOW ESV VOLUNTEERING CAN ADD CAPACITY AND BUILD BUSINESS LINKS

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Since 2018, the Science and Industry Museum, in Manchester, has formalised its approach to Employee Supported Volunteering (ESV). Today it involves a number employees from local businesses in roles as varied as gardening to supporting exhibitions and gaming events.

To simplify their involvement, ESV volunteers are usually involved in existing activities where additional resource is needed, such as The Manchester Science Festival. Volunteers come through the employer's Volunteer Coordinator, and an initial interview is not needed. The workplace's Coordinator provides information about the employee prior to their volunteer day and confirms all details before they attend.

Volunteers are given an induction, including basic health and safety and role specific training. As they are on site for only a day, the Welcome is kept as brief as possible. Once complete, they are introduced to the rest of the volunteer team and their supervisor is available for their entire shift to provide support.

ESV volunteers are a reliable and effective way to add capacity to an existing volunteer team, particularly at peak times. Roles deemed appropriate for ESV must be of the kind that can easily be picked up and require little prior knowledge. As ESV volunteers are not familiar with the museum, and unlikely to know other volunteers already, it is important that they are confident talking to people and able to work on own initiative and as part of a team. This rarely presents any real challenges, but it is worth bearing in mind each time.

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