



Bi-Weekly Club Newsletter

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Leadership Academies



With a raising concern for the future of our youth, there is no better time than *now* to influence the next generation of leaders.

London 2012 will depend on up to 70,000 volunteers to make sure the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games run smoothly and successfully

Volunteering will be at the heart of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Volunteers will be chosen for a number of reasons including their skills and also volunteering experience. Therefore it is important that anyone wishing to volunteer for the London Games should start volunteering within their local community in order to increase their chances of selection.

What is a Leadership Academy?

- A Leadership Academy is a group of young leaders who want to develop their leadership skills whilst volunteering within gymnastics.
- The Academy is a constituted group and is run by the young leaders, with support from a staff member.
- The young leaders elect the committee and determine the direction of the Academy.
- Academy members can also identify specific training courses that they would like to attend for professional development.
- Young Leaders are provided with the opportunity to volunteer at national, regional and local events and within a club setting.
- Along with the serious side of the Academy comes a chance for young people with similar interests to get together as a group and have fun.

Benefits

- Opportunities to engage with decision-making
- Access to training courses you wouldn't normally be able to access
- Opportunities to volunteer at local events & competitions
- Opportunity to be valued as a young volunteer and have your achievements recognised Supporting local gymnastics structures

Benefits for partners

- Increase the number of young people involved in volunteering within gymnastics
- Increase the number of young leaders trained in leadership
- Link with existing programmes and pathways, including Step Into Sport and other School Sport Partnership Academies
- Develop links with other agencies in education, community and professional settings

Purpose of a Leadership Academy

A Leadership Academy can adopt any direction depending on the interests and ambitions of the members of the group.

Projects could include:

- Supporting or organising Regional, County, Club or School Competitions
- Coach Education for the members of the academy to support clubs
- Organise activities to support facility developments i.e. fundraising for equipment
- Support both school and club events to help develop school to club links
- Promote volunteering opportunities in Gymnastics and the academy to the wider community and partner organisations

The leaders undertake an introductory programme to volunteering within gymnastics, based on the Helpers' Award and the 'super six' areas of volunteering: Coaching

1. Judging
2. Events
3. Publicity / Promotion
4. Health, Safety & Welfare
5. Admin & Management

Once the Academy members have completed the introductory sessions they are guided through any additional training that they have identified, including First Aid, Coaching and Judging Qualifications and other generic sports training. The Academy members also identify how often they would like to continue to meet as a group and what areas they would like to develop, for example, organising a display or festival, volunteering at events etc.

Volunteer hours through a Gymnastics Leadership Academy can be used towards the Step Into Sport programme

What is the Step Into Sport Programme?

- A national volunteering programme for young leaders
- Run through the School Sports Partnerships usually as a Leadership Academy
- Cover all sports offering generic training courses and volunteer opportunities
- Logging volunteer hours counts towards a recognised award

Volunteer hours through a Gymnastics Leadership Academy can be used towards the Step Into Sport programme

If you want to know more about Leadership Academies in your area, contact your Gymnastics Development Officer:

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