

VDS, Business Development

ONLINE VOYAGE FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Development Scotland Launches MV Volunteering Passport

Young volunteers throughout Scotland are set to enhance their volunteering experience with the launch of the MV¹ Volunteering Passport (www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk), a new online initiative from Volunteer Development Scotland which gives young people and organisations the chance to recognise their efforts and capture their volunteering journey.

The MV Volunteering Passport is a free online personal resource for youth involving organisations, groups and projects and young volunteers aged 16-25, enabling them to track and reflect on their volunteering experience. The MV Volunteering Passport is an extension of the MV¹ Awards, a free national scheme for young volunteers. MV Awards are granted following 50 hours, 100 hours and 200 hours of volunteering. They are signed by Scottish Government ministers and supported nationwide by Volunteer Development Scotland and the Volunteer Centre Network Scotland. Over 10,000 MV Awards have been granted since the launch in 2004.

By utilising the MV Volunteering Passport young volunteers will be able to track their volunteering hours online and also keep a print ready journal of their activities. This will enable them to review their experiences, share stories with others and importantly gain validation for their volunteering hours, so they can claim their MV Awards certificates.

A number of organisations have already signed up to the initiative to ensure high standards of volunteer management including the Prince's Trust, Lead Scotland, Bield Housing, the Boys Brigade, Eco Schools and the British Red Cross. The MV Volunteering Passport is supported locally though the Volunteer Centre Scotland Network.

Paul Devine, Prince's Trust Team Leader said: "The MV Volunteering Passport is a very useful development with a format of learning that young people can control for themselves."

George Thomson, CEO of Volunteer Development Scotland said: "Research indicates that young people want to develop their own volunteering opportunities and engage with flexible options and the new MV Volunteering Passport allows them to do just that. Young volunteers will be able to access the MV Volunteering Passport from any location in order to search for opportunities and more importantly record their hours to ensure they get the recognition they deserve for all of their hard work."

The MV Volunteering Passport is now live at www.mvvolunteeringpassport.org.uk and young people can register on the site. Once registered the passport holds a searchable database of MV compatible volunteering opportunities. All opportunities are managed through the local Volunteer Centre or Volunteer Development Scotland.

ENDS

For further information, case studies or to arrange an interview with a spokesperson please contact Nadine Reilly or Katrina Muir at IAS SMARTS on 0131 555 0425 or firstname.lastname@iassmarts.com.

References

¹Millennium Volunteers

Notes to editors

About Volunteer Development Scotland

- Established in 1984, Volunteer Development Scotland is an independent membership organisation and the Centre for Excellence for volunteer development in Scotland with over 70 staff
- Volunteer Development Scotland plays a pivotal role in driving widespread support for furthering the development of volunteering in Scotland through partnership working, research, policy development, consultation and dialogue
- With extensive networks and an evidence based approach, Volunteer Development Scotland influences policy and strategy whilst implementing quality standards and best practice in all aspects of volunteering in public and private sectors

- Volunteer Development Scotland works in partnership with a wide range of organisations to advance the boundaries of volunteering, increasing accessibility, scope, understanding and value to all involved.

