

Volunteer Role Description

Furniture and Upcycling Volunteer

Purpose	To be part of team dedicated to restoring or upcycling furniture and other items for use on the site or for sale
Key activities	<p>The Reader at Calderstones is a place where anyone can come to experience literature, find and share meaning, be nourished, develop new skills, explore new things and, find 'something real'. We run many weekly Shared Reading groups, as well as many other weekly community groups, such as Knit and Natter</p> <p>The Reader at Calderstones is home to the International Centre for Shared Reading – a centre of excellence serving our international community, and welcoming everyone who wants to begin or develop their Shared Reading practice.</p> <p>Visitors can also visit the neolithic Calder Stones in a new heritage centre that brings the stories of the past to life.</p> <p>But with a commercial Café, Shop and Ice Cream Parlour on site, and our glorious Storybarn, as well as the park's only public toilets, we will be welcoming thousands of people who know very little of our purpose, only that we have things they may want to buy or use.</p> <p>Your role will be key helping to create a beautiful and well-cared-for environment. There will also be opportunity to develop your own ideas.</p> <p>We're looking for people with skills at all levels. Tasks could include, depending on your skills, any or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring wooden furniture by sanding, re-varnishing, waxing or painting • Make repairs as needed • Refurbish old picture frames for use in items to be produced for The Reader Shop • Re-purpose older pieces of furniture or household items for use in the Storybarn e.g. armchair+ old bike+ old standard lamp made into pedal-powered reading-light-chair for children • Upholstery or upholstery repairs • Curtain making • Making planters, small bookshelves and other items
What you will get out of it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity to become part of The Reader community

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A creative and rewarding outlet for your talents • Opportunities for you to enrich the lives of other people by creating a lovely environment • Help generate income for The Reader charity • Gain first-hand experience of working with an award winning nationally recognised social enterprise • A chance to harness the skills you have and develop new ones • Regular and ongoing support from a friendly and supportive team • Develop confidence • Enhance your CV
What we expect from you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need people who care or can learn to care about what The Reader is doing • Work according to all volunteer policies and procedures • Able to volunteer under the supervision and support of The Reader • Able to ask for help when needed • Feedback to The Reader staff if you have particular concerns or difficulties • Ability to remain resilient and show compassion to members of the community • Have a responsible approach to health and safety
Commitment	<p>Time commitment per week: minimum three to four hours</p> <p>Length of role: minimum six months (to ensure continuity and consistency for the Facilities Team)</p>
Location	The Reader's Head Office, Calderstones Park, Liverpool, L18 3JB
Skills/experiences/personal qualities required	<p>The role will suit you if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an enjoyment and enthusiasm for making, restoring, repairing or generally fixing things • Have knowledge of basic DIY skills in any area or are keen to learn • Have knowledge of basic maintenance tools and equipment (training to be provided) • Have the ability to recognise limitations and work within set boundaries • Have a sound knowledge of health and safety requirements or are willing to learn through training • Can commit to working within the unique ethos and values of The Reader • Can work according to all volunteer policies and procedure • Can work independently • Show attention to detail
DBS required?	A DBS may be required for this role. A criminal record does not necessarily disqualify a person from volunteering with us.

Application Process	The Reader has a strong track record in delivering high quality services. Making sure that we have the right people in the right roles is an organisational priority and extends to our volunteering community. As part of the recruitment process for this role we'll invite you to a visit and possibly join a Shared Reading group, to read up on our induction documents and to complete an application form. We'll also request references. As we would with any role, paid or unpaid, we will talk to you openly about any reservations we identify that result in our decision not to offer you a place volunteering in this role.
Support and Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="564 533 1254 566">• The Reader Social Enterprise and Facilities team
Training required	Induction and training sessions will be provided and must be completed before starting the placement. The training will comprise of half a day on site with a member of our Facilities Team.
Volunteer expenses	Travel expenses will be provided as per volunteer expenses policy.
Further information	For further information, please contact volunteer@thereader.org.uk