



# Young Volunteer: Role Description

## About Think Circus

Think Circus SCIO is a social circus based in Edinburgh. We exist to improve confidence and wellbeing in young people, families and adults, through the experiences of learning circus. Since 2017, we've impacted 12,500 participants, including youth programs in Craigmillar and Leith. Our mission is to create a supportive community where failure is celebrated, confidence grows, and the impossible becomes real.

Circus acts as a wildcard, engaging marginalised youth via easy-to-learn skills (juggling, hula hooping, acrobatics). This positive approach enhances confidence, mental/physical health, and resilience. Circus skills manage emotions applicable in various contexts. One-third of participants are neurodiverse, and a quarter are from deprived areas. We offer weekly youth classes, family sessions, and projects for girls, partnering with local groups. As a social enterprise, we partly fund these via quality circus shows. We've impacted 2400+ and aid 48 beneficiaries yearly (ages 5-16).

## Role Title

We have two roles for young volunteers (ages 16-17) to choose from, either Class Assistant Volunteer or Social Media Assistant.

## Overview

We have a limited number of placements available for young people to volunteer with us at Think Circus. As a volunteer, you will play a crucial role in raising awareness about Think Circus and encouraging people of all ages to join in and try new skills. This is a vital part of our efforts to empower young people, foster communities, and create thought-provoking performances.

## Social Media Assistant - Option One

The social media volunteer role serves as the digital storyteller for Think Circus's mission to empower youth through circus arts. We are seeking a volunteer to craft compelling content, amplifying the transformative impact of Think Circus. The aim is to foster a supportive online community, driving engagement, and attracting support from a wider audience, ultimately contributing to the organisation's outreach, advocacy, and sustainability. You will work closely with our marketing team to develop and execute engaging social media content that aligns with our goals and resonates with our online community.

### Responsibilities

- Create compelling and relevant social media content (text, images, videos) that highlights Think Circus's activities and impact.
- Collaborate with the marketing team to develop and create social media campaigns that drive engagement, increase followers, and attract supporters to our organisation.
- Research and identify trends, hashtags, and topics related to social circus workshops, events, and social impact, ensuring our content remains current and relatable.
- Meet deadlines when creating content, to ensure a consistent posting schedule across all social media platforms.
- Assist in sharing insights to assess the effectiveness of campaigns, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven recommendations.

### Essential Skills

- Strong understanding of major social media platforms.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Creative mindset with the ability to generate engaging content that resonates with diverse audiences.
- Basic familiarity with content creation tools.
- Passion for social impact and charity work.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a team.
- Enjoying meeting new people and being friendly and kind to people.
- Reliable and punctual, with a good sense of responsibility.

### Desirable Skills

- Enjoying the circus (don't worry if you haven't seen a show yet).
- Detail-oriented with strong organisational skills.
- Having a sense of fun!

## **Class Assistant - Option Two**

The class assistant attends classes run by Think Circus and supports participation in warm-up, games and skill-based activities. Usually they will be attached to one weekly class, e.g. Sunday Family Circus, Teen Circus or Youth Classes.

To see details of the classes and projects we offer, including days, times and locations, visit our website.

Classes: [thinkcircus.co.uk/classes-and-courses](http://thinkcircus.co.uk/classes-and-courses)

Community sessions: [thinkcircus.co.uk/community](http://thinkcircus.co.uk/community)

They support the Circus Tutor and Assistant Circus Tutor as appropriate during the session, to make sure it is a fun and rewarding experience for the participants.

## **Responsibilities**

- Helping teachers to establish a secure and motivating atmosphere for our students to flourish.
- Trying out various circus skills alongside the participants learning, so they feel encouraged to take part. We aim to provide basic training in skills but you don't need to know them in advance.
- Recognising the accomplishments of participants and motivating them to explore new opportunities.
- Reporting any instances of abuse, inappropriate behaviour, or potential risks if observed.
- Assisting in maintaining a clean and organised classroom environment, including setting up, tidying up and collecting equipment.
- Providing assistance with registers and forms, addressing visitor enquiries, and warmly welcoming and encouraging youth to join and explore the world of circus.
- Giving feedback about the session as part of a debrief.

## **Essential Skills**

- Enjoying meeting new people and being friendly and kind to people.
- Work well in a team and find joy in collaboration.
- Reliable and punctual, with a good sense of responsibility.
- Willing to complete a PVG check (We will pay for the PVG check). This is a legal requirement and you can find out more about this here: <https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme>

## **Desirable Skills**

- Enjoying the circus and having basic circus knowledge (don't worry if you haven't).
- Previous experience working with children.
- Having a sense of fun

## General Information for Both Roles:

### Commitment

Ideally, we would appreciate your commitment to volunteering for a range of two to four hours every week, and to commit to an initial three month placement. You will have the option to extend your volunteer placement at the end of the three months. We understand that your availability may vary, and we are highly flexible, recognising that you may not be able to contribute every single week.

Regular classes are held outside of school hours and we have some sessions and events that run on evenings and weekends.

### Location

Edinburgh

### Duration and Compensation

This is an unpaid volunteering opportunity with a flexible time commitment. The volunteer will gain valuable experience in teaching and class management, content creation, and nonprofit marketing. While there is no monetary compensation, we offer a supportive and educational environment that fosters personal and professional growth. Young people interested in completing Duke of Edinburgh awards can do this with us during their placement, and we can provide more information on request.

We aim to ensure that all volunteers do not incur any personal expenses through volunteering with us, and can offer reimbursement for any travel costs and expenses incurred. We will provide use of circus equipment as needed. You will need to have access to a phone or laptop for editing at home.

### Benefits

- Developing new skills and boosting confidence.
- Engaging with new individuals and fostering a stronger local community.
- Becoming an integral part of a supportive team.
- Strengthening your CV and obtaining written references upon completing a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering.
- Free access to events, adult circus classes and masterclasses run by Think Circus
- Regular social and training events held with our volunteer and freelancers
- Annual awards celebration for volunteers

### How to apply

To apply, please fill out [this short form](https://wkf.ms/44bBjEX): <https://wkf.ms/44bBjEX> to tell us about yourself and why you want to volunteer.

If you have any questions please email us at [volunteer@thinkcircus.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@thinkcircus.co.uk)  
Join us in making a difference!