

Youth Committee Frequently Asked Questions



Each year members of the Farm's Youth Clubs and Youth volunteer team have the chance to apply to become Youth Committee members. The Committee makes important decisions about how young people access, enjoy and use the Farm.

What are the benefits of being on the Youth Committee?

Members are rewarded for their hard work by:

- Sitting on the Youth Committee and making decisions to shape the future of the Farm
- Being given free food and snacks in meetings
- Having the support of Farm staff through 1:1s throughout the year
- Deciding which training opportunities they would like
- Receiving an AQA in Youth Leadership
- Having the opportunity to record their duties in CVs for future study or work
- Attendance at events including the Farm's AGM or Lord Mayor's Show
- Involvement in Southwark Council's Biodiversity Action Plan
- Reimbursement of travel costs
- Representing the Farm at the City Harvest Festival
- Given the opportunity to develop their potential through external opportunities e.g. London Youth DARE

2019 - 20 Young people's feedback:

Being part of the Youth Committee at Surrey Docks farm has been an amazing experience, I have thoroughly enjoyed it every step of the way.

To begin with I wasn't really sure if the contributions that I made would actually have an impact on life at the farm, however my doubts were quickly put to rest after the very first meeting. All of our ideas on how to improve the farm holistically as well as ideas targeted

at areas of weakness that we thought particularly needed a revamp were taken into consideration, such as the wildlife garden that we as a whole thought needed some extra love and as a result had an entire makeover!

In addition, we also brainstormed ways to make the Young Volunteering scheme more exciting and enjoyable to be in, so that more people transitioning from previous clubs into volunteering would stay on and remain part of the farm community, which wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of the Youth Committee!

Also, being part of the Youth Committee has opened me up to so many opportunities, such as carrying the flag for the Lord Mayor's Show which was aired on live television, or the chance at being part of the London Youth's DARE group – I wouldn't have had the chance at any of this if it wasn't for the Youth Committee!

Being part of the Youth Committee is such an enjoyable and invigorating experience that opens you up to many opportunities, and did I mention that there was pizza too? I highly encourage anybody interested to apply!

In my time as a Youth Committee member I have had a hugely great experience and have benefited lots from the programme. You will have frequent meetings with the other youth committee members and also with the management committee. It is great fun and you get to make important decisions about the farm such as deciding the things we need to do with the wildlife garden. The people in the management committee are really nice and we sometimes influence their decisions. Don't be shy and have a go, you won't regret it!!!

P.S. We get food!!

What skills or experience do I need to be on the Youth Committee?

- You are able to represent the key concerns of young people in the local area to your fellow Youth Committee members, to the Farm's Management Committee and to Farm staff
- You are committed to making the Farm a better place for young people
- Your behaviour, actions and opinions are supported by your peers
- You are passionate about your community and helping others
- You have an interest in the environment and nature
- You are respectful, polite and courteous
- You are excited about representing the Farm to a high standard at the AGM and external events
- You are able to attend Committee meetings on the last Saturday of each month (except July, August and December)

How long can I be in the Youth Committee?

Youth Committee Members are in post for one year and attend a meeting on the last Saturday of each month, except July, August and December. One of these meetings will take place at the Farm's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Who can apply for Youth Committee membership?

Members of our youth clubs and any volunteers under 18 years of age can apply. We are particularly interested in applications from young people who identify as young carers, are ethnic minorities or have disabilities.

What is a youth committee meeting like?

Meetings usually occur on the last Saturday of the month from 2-5pm. Each meeting has a written 'Agenda' (a list of the things we will discuss and make decisions about) and a Chair who will lead the discussion. Initially the Chair will be a staff member but after an introductory period, Committee members themselves will chair the meetings. Hot food will be provided in the meeting wherever possible.

Members will work towards their AQA in Youth Advocacy and receive short training sessions based on their chosen areas of interest in the meetings.

During the meeting, members share any personal growth and development stories, supporting one another to seek new and exciting challenges.

Members of the Farm's Management Committee or staff team can book in a time slot during meetings to hear about the Youth Committee's work.

How many young people make up the Committee?

Up to 8 young people form the Committee each year. These members will currently be involved in either the Farm's Youth Clubs or Youth Volunteering team.

How can I apply?

Application form:

Interested candidates from the Youth Clubs or Young Volunteering team should talk to Lucy or send an email to lucy@surreydocksfarm.org.uk to receive an application form and guidance about putting together a persuasive application. Answers can be

submitted verbally (staff will transcribe for you) or by writing (handwritten or word processed).

Informal interview:

You will be invited to attend an informal interview with members of the Youth Committee who will ask all candidates the exact same questions about how they meet the essential criteria for the post. The interviewer will make any notes they want to about your answers.

What happens if I have not been successful this time?

We would encourage unsuccessful applicants to try again the next year. Remember your opinions, thoughts and ideas are still important! You are encouraged to share these with the Youth Committee and session leader/s throughout the year.

We will always make sure people know about any training sessions taking place that might offer additional skills to support a future application.

I'm interested, where can I get more information?

For more details about the Youth Committee, including a Role Description, please visit: <https://www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk/youth-committee/> or speak to a member of the Youth Staff team.

Last review date: July 16th 2020