# What’s On in Volunteering

We have an extensive offer for you to access to make the most of your volunteering experience. Check out our resources, training opportunities and events coming up in 2024 and beyond.

##### “Volunteering has challenged me, built my confidence and brought me fulfilment and new friendships - as well as offering me opportunities I may not have otherwise got to experience.”

## Events for Volunteers in 2024 and beyond

#### Keeping in Touch for Volunteers

These sessions take place, online, three times a year. They are an opportunity to connect with volunteers from across the organisation, learn more about RNIB and have some fun too.

#### Dates for for Keeping in Touch for Volunteers 2024

Tuesday 9 April at 1-2pm

Wednesday 26 June 12-1pm

Thursday 5 December 11am-12pm

To sign up or for more information contact VolunteeringSupport.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk

#### Wellbeing Nibbles for Volunteers

Take some time out of your day to focus on your wellbeing. The sessions provide a space for prioritising your wellbeing and sharing ideas about good practices with others. They are delivered throughout year.

##### Dates for Wellbeing Nibbles for Volunteers 2024

Monday 5 February 10am to 10.45am

Tuesday 14 May 10am to 10.45am

Wednesday 9 October 10am to 10.45am

To sign up or for more information contact VolunteeringSupport.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk

#### Festival of Volunteering

This is a series of in person volunteering events held at locations across the UK. It is a fantastic opportunity to connect with others, celebrate volunteering, hear updates from RNIB and have an enjoyable day with other volunteers and colleagues.

#### Technology for Life Lunch and Learn Sessions

Weekly lunch time specials hosted by the Technology for Life team provide an opportunity for all volunteers to learn about accessible technology and much more.

##### Essential Training Group Learning Sessions

These are facilitated sessions to support volunteers with completing the Essential Training Workbooks.

###### Dates for Essential Training Group Learning Sessions

###### Policies Workbook

Monday 15th April at 10.30am or Thursday 25th April at 2pm

###### People Workbook

Monday 22nd April at 10.30am or Thursday 2nd May at 2pm

More dates will be added soon.

To sign up or for more information contact VolunteeringSupport.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk

## Resources for Volunteers

##### “As a RNIB volunteer, you will get plenty support and the training you need. It is great to volunteer.”

#### Volunteering Hub

Our Volunteering Hub offers a great place to find all relevant guidance, resources and up to date volunteer insight. To access the Hub, visit <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-hub-for-current-volunteers/>

#### Volunteer News

The Volunteer News is a monthly newsletter for all volunteers, which includes volunteering stories and key updates from RNIB, as well as invites to events and opportunities. This will be sent in your preferred format.

#### Employee and Volunteer Assistance Programme

As a volunteer with RNIB, you will be able to access the Employee and Volunteer Assistance Programme (EVAP) for additional support including guidance and where appropriate counselling. It is an independent, free, and confidential service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all RNIB staff and volunteers, which is provided by Health Assured Ltd. You can call any time day or night on 0800 028 0199 or +44 161 836 9498 from outside the UK. For more information about this programme, please speak with your volunteer manager or contact the Volunteering team.

#### RNIB Counselling Service

At RNIB we offer a Counselling Service for staff and volunteers who need support. The service can provide access to eight one-hour sessions of confidential counselling almost on an immediate basis, delivered by externally contracted counsellors, all of whom have been trained in the sight loss counselling model and understand the work that the RNIB does. This service is in addition to the Employee and Volunteer Assistance Programme. To access this service please email Amanda.Hawkins@rnib.org.uk or Tina.Doyle@rnib.org.uk

## Share Your Experience

##### “Volunteering is the opportunity to give something back using skills that are natural to me.”

### Volunteer Advisory Council

The Volunteer Advisory Council is a group of volunteers from different backgrounds, roles, and locations. They meet quarterly, online, to advise RNIB on the volunteer experience. It is a volunteering opportunity that you apply for. Currently recruiting new members, for further details, email VolunteeraAdvisoryCouncil@rnib.org.uk

### Volunteer Surveys

We have two volunteer experience surveys a year, in addition to surveys at different points in your volunteering journey and following specific events, such as Festival of Volunteering. These will give you the chance to tell us about your volunteering experience and we value these opportunities to gain an in-depth understanding of your volunteering journey. Our research findings are shared on the Volunteer Hub, https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-hub-for-current-volunteers/volunteer-voices-our-research/

### Lived Experience Volunteering

We have volunteering opportunities for you to share your lived experience of sight loss. These are posted regularly on our website. <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/>

##### "**My lived experience of sight loss brings understanding for the people I'm supporting; I can share information that I take for granted that other people might not know.”**

#### Share Your Story

At RNIB we love to share and promote the many stories and experiences of RNIB volunteers. You can email us if there is anything you want us to write about, post about or even share on the radio. The contact email is Volunteering@rnib.org.uk

Here is an example with Ollie's story:

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/news/ollie-thomas/>

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## Get Involved in RNIB

##### “I started out as a transcription volunteer, reading at home, but, as I have learned more about the great work RNIB does, I have felt motivated to do more to help. Once I heard about the opportunity to work as a Sooty Box Collector in my local area, I contacted the team and now I am really enjoying being part of the fundraising effort”.

There are different opportunities to get involved in supporting RNIB outside of volunteering, this can include fundraising, campaigning, and finding out more about ways to support someone with sight loss, below is further information on how you could be involved:

### Fundraising

Raise money for RNIB and help us support the 250 people who start to lose their sight each day in the UK. Whatever you enjoy doing you can find a fundraising event to suit you, or you can organise your own. You can also play our raffle and lottery for the chance to win big. Find out more: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/>

### Campaigns

Get involved in campaigning with RNIB and help build a world without barriers for blind and partially sighted people. Whether you have sight loss, know someone with sight loss or have an interest in making the world a fairer place, together we can bring about change. Find out more: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/support-a-campaign/>

### Helping You to Help Others

There are lots of ways you can help someone with sight loss, this may be through good communication skills, guiding or even supporting with basic technology tips. We have developed a resource with tips and guides, find out more: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/helping-you-help-others/>

Please note some of our activity for volunteers will vary depending on your role. Reach out to us for further information or to register for the events listed, our email address is Volunteering@rnib.org.uk, you can also call us on 0303 123 9999 and follow the prompts.

**Document Ends**