

Hayley

Director
Camden Volunteer Bureau



How I got here

I did A Levels in geography, biology and economics & business studies. I was really interested in geography which is why I went on to Study it at Brunel University. One of the modules in my geography course, was called “Geography in the Community” it was about taking what you’ve learnt in theory out into the *real* world, and I volunteered as part of my dissertation research. I set up a community garden in a local school, and part of my research was finding out how people felt part of the community, also how the garden might help them in teaching parts of the national curriculum. That got me interested in the volunteer sector and I now work for Volunteer Centre Camden, which is a small voluntary sector organisation.

What my job entails

I am the director of Volunteer Centre Camden, which means I manage all of our staff and some of our volunteers. I’m responsible for inter-agency work, I meet with organisations such as Social Services and Youth Services and talk to them about how to promote volunteering and involve volunteers in their organisations. We have over 400 different volunteering options with organisations throughout Camden and we aim to find something for everyone depending on what they want to do. Volunteer placements range from the traditional charity shop roles to working with homeless people and supporting refugees.

How I use my geographical skills

In my university course we did lots of social research methods because I was studying human geography. This involved going out and talking to people, so people skills really – understanding different people and different issues. At university we explored the geographies of marginalised groups and communities and that really helped me understand the different issues different people face; for my job I think it’s really important to have that kind of awareness.

Why I love geography

Geography is about people and places, about finding out how different people live their lives and I find this fascinating.