



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Welcome

Whether you're a large charity or volunteer involving organisation or a small community group, you can join in the new **Get Involved Festival of Volunteering 2026**. There are no rules - just a chance to celebrate, thank your volunteers, and join with other organisations to invite new people to get involved. Here's everything you need to get started.

1. What's it all about?

- A month-long celebration of volunteering across Norfolk and Waveney.
 - Say thank you to your volunteers, share their stories, and inspire new people to join in. Be part of a countywide event to shout about volunteering.
 - Take part in any way that works for you, big or small!
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2. How to take part (Step-by-Step)

- **Step 1: Pick your activity**
Choose one, or more, of the easy ideas below, or invent your own.
- **Step 2: Post your event on Get Involved Norfolk under the Festival of Volunteering organisation we've created. (details below, point 5)**
If you are planning a public event to attract new volunteers or to let people know what you do create a Community Event on Get Involved Norfolk and we will feature it on a new page on Get Involved Norfolk and help you promote it as part of the Festival of Volunteering,
- **Step 3: Celebrate and share**
Let local people know about your event through posters, flyers, word of mouth

and social media. Enjoy your event, take photos, and share your stories - tag us so we can celebrate with you!

- **Need help or inspiration?**

If the ideas below don't appeal, then come along to our online drop-in session on Wednesday 18 March from 2.30 - 3.30 – register here for [Eventbrite Drop-in session](#). Or drop us a line at volunteercentre@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk.

3. Easy ideas for any organisation

Thank and celebrate

- Host a tea, coffee morning, or picnic for your volunteers.
- Create a “Wall of Thanks” with messages from staff, service users, or the public.
- Give out homemade certificates or badges. We can offer attractive Get Involved Festival of Volunteering certificates for you to personalise.

Open your doors

- Run a drop-in session or open day to show people what you do.
- Invite volunteers to bring a friend for a taster session.

Share stories

- Post a volunteer's story or photo on your website or social media.
- Collect “Why I volunteer” quotes and display them in your office or online.

Try something new

- Offer a short, one-off volunteering task (e.g., help at an event, tidy a garden, pack food parcels).
- Run a skills swap and invite volunteers to share a hobby or talent.

Make it accessible

- Offer a “quiet hour” for people who prefer a calmer environment.
- Provide Easy Read information and use big, clear signs.

Go digital

- Host a virtual thank-you event or share a video message.
 - Invite people to try “armchair volunteering” (e.g., phone calls, online tasks).
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4. Top tips for small teams

- Decide whether your focus is on thanking existing volunteers or attracting new ones.

- Ask your volunteers for their ideas to help shape appealing activities.
 - Keep it simple and use what you already have (a regular meeting, a newsletter, a WhatsApp group).
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5. How to register your event/volunteering day.

We've decided the best way to make activities most visible is to create an organisation and showcase the opportunities and events on a map on new page created especially for the festival, you can also add it under your own organisation account if you wish.

- Follow this link to join the festival of volunteering group on Get InVOLved Norfolk <https://www.getinvolvednorfolk.org.uk/shared-invite/31870/f34a927204492211af8f7a62cda9cf1e9e5f26858c61f7189b4b2a5e77202f20> **once joined you will see the Festival of Volunteering under the organisations you belong to.**
- Select the organisation Festival of Volunteering. Add your event by selecting **+ Add in the main picture** (or from opportunities on the left) from the drop-down menu then select **+Add Community event**
- You will need to provide your organisation name in the title of the event or activity and include where it will take place. In the red box write a summary (no more than 160 characters) and click on **+ Add a detailed description in red** – include times, the type of activities on offer, why people should come, refreshments or other inducements. Scroll down to add a cover image – upload an attractive landscape format photo or graphic image, using the Festival frame if you choose – and complete the other questions (tick RSVP for events).
- See video guidance [here](#) for further support

All events and activities will be fed on to the Festival of Volunteering page

[Festival of Volunteering 2026 | Get InVOLved Norfolk](#)

6. Need Support?

- Visit the resources on [Get Involved Norfolk](#) for templates and social media graphics.
- Contact us for advice - we're here to help! Laura or Clare at volunteercentre@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk.