Look to your future *at Corrymeela.*

Shaping who you are as you develop skills for the future.

Experience community *with Corrymeela.*

Supporting groups to live well together now & for the future.

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Volunteer
Programme

Introduction

Corrymeela is a community that draws people together to engage with difference, heal division and support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Every year, we welcome thousands of people to our Centre at Ballycastle and into our community-based programmes to explore difference together and discover new ways to live well together. Among those we welcome are many who have been marginalised by injustice and inequality, and have experienced trauma.

Our staff, volunteers and community members are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and faith traditions, and work together to contribute towards building a more cohesive and hope-filled society for everyone.

Our volunteering programme has been going since the very beginning of Corrymeela. Today, we welcome 10-15 new long term Volunteers to live on site for a year, working and learning alongside our members, staff and the people we welcome. We invite applicants from across the globe and here at home to consider volunteering in this way. All the information you need is found in the pages that follow, but please do let us know if you have any questions.

The Corrymeela Community Charter

The Corryeela Community Strategy

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We have Long-Term Volunteer residential roles to fill in the following areas:

1. **Programme and Hospitality**
2. **Volunteer Support**
3. **Cover Support**

Role Outlines

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Role Description 1:

Programme and Hospitality

Supported by:	Volunteer Programme Manager
Duration:	September 2026 to August 2027
Location:	Corrymeela Ballycastle Centre

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Role Purpose

The Programme and Hospitality Volunteers support and assist staff in the practical tasks and responsibilities inherent in welcoming and hosting groups at Centre, including youth and school groups, international university groups and community and faith groups. This includes tasks such as setting up tea and coffee breaks for groups, setting up for meals, carrying out post residential cleaning (not including bedrooms), running games and activities for youth and school groups, and working with Programme Managers to provide programme activities for groups. Through this role you will have the opportunity to work and interact with people from all different backgrounds as you engage with participants. You will gain skills in hospitality and programme work, including facilitating groups and activities.

Tasks

Hospitality of Groups

- To be a welcoming presence to groups as they arrive – engaging with guests, helping with luggage, assisting with centre orientation, taking registration and managing bed plans
- To ensure that all programme spaces and resources are prepared for groups' arrival and cleaned after groups depart
- To assist and support in setting up before and clearing up after meals and refreshment breaks
- To be a part of the emergency response team for fire procedures, and to support health and safety generally on site
- To participate in weekly Monday Volunteer Team meetings (Monday Rhythms)
- To participate in a full induction programme and continuing professional development training throughout the year

Supporting Groups

- To participate in pre-residential briefing meetings and assist, when appropriate in programme planning and design
- To aid programme staff, facilitators, and group leaders in programme delivery. For example: leading introductory ice-breakers, teambuilding or guiding discussions exploring conflict, identity, leadership, and community. At Corrymeela, we explore these themes through facilitated elements of outdoors learning, developmental group work, Arts & Crafts activities and reflective practice
- To ensure that visitors and groups share in a positive experience at mealtimes and downtimes. When alongside a group, we expect volunteers to be present, to dine and converse with the group participants
- To actively participate in and contribute to post-residential evaluation meetings
- To lead out programmes. We hope that volunteers may, after a period of time, be able to support each other in carrying out group activities and facilitate programmes independently or as a team

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Role Description 2:

Volunteer Support

Supported by:	Volunteer Programme Manager
Duration:	September 2026 to August 2027
Location:	Corrymeela Ballycastle Centre

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Role Purpose

As a Volunteer Support Volunteer, you will assist the Volunteer Programme Manager to help meet the needs of the residential volunteers. This may include meeting with volunteers, leading reflective spaces, planning residential retreats, and overseeing on and off-site activities to support the wellbeing of the lived community. This will include supporting other volunteers through pastoral care where appropriate.

Tasks

Volunteer Support

- To provide a consistent and supportive presence to the lived community
- To oversee weekly reflective spaces for the volunteers and help plan an annual residential retreat
- To participate in weekly Monday Volunteer meetings (Monday Rhythms) and help the Volunteer Programme Manager with an agenda and training/activities for these
- To be an active participant in the shared rhythms of the Centre and its communal life
- Alongside the Volunteer Programme Manager, to ensure activities, meetings, check-ins, and support are in place for the wellbeing of all residential volunteers
- To encourage volunteers to use host family support off site, and liaise with host families especially during times of stress or emergency
- To help coordinate transport for volunteers to doctors, hospital and emergency out of hours appointments
- To help with the arrival and departure of short-term volunteers
- To support the upkeep of the volunteer accommodation and the upholding of a Coventry Agreement
- To provide information to internal and external stakeholders on the Volunteer Programme as and when required
- To assist the Volunteer Programme Manager in developing the programme and updating information as and when required
- To generously practice and demonstrate excellent hospitality and extend a warm welcome to all

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Role Description 3:

Cover Support

Supported by:	Volunteer Programme Manager
Duration:	September 2026 to August 2027
Location:	Corrymeela Ballycastle Centre

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Role Purpose

Cover Support Volunteers are essential to the efficient and secure running of the Centre. These Volunteers assist the Hospitality and Facilities Team by volunteering as part of a Cover Team. Cover Support volunteers are often on call overnight in case of emergencies when groups and other residents are on site. They may be the main contact person for necessary responses.

Tasks

Cover Support

- To extend a warm welcome to guests when they arrive, offering excellent hospitality throughout their stay
- To be part of a team that supports the efficient running of the Centre
- To complete daily operational tasks in a timely and efficient manner; applicants should be prepared to carry out manual tasks such as the lifting and moving of tables, chairs and equipment
- To support with meal set and room set up, preparing tea/coffee stations, washing dishes and cleaning duties
- To participate in weekly Monday Volunteer Team meetings (Monday Rhythms)
- To participate in a full induction and continued professional development training throughout the year
- To maintain high standards in relation to health and safety/hygiene protocols
- To be part of the emergency response team for fire procedures
- To support Centre security, which includes key-holding duties and locking up the site at night when on call
- To undertake general administration duties as required
- To provide site tours to groups and to the public

My Corrymeela experience helped me get into university, meet amazing people, and develop confidence in myself.

Former Corrymeela Volunteer

Information for all volunteers

Living and Learning Together

- To join in and contribute to events associated with the wider life of Corrymeela
- To participate in Centre meetings and the rhythms of a shared communal life
- To engage in training to develop skills in facilitating sessions and activities
- To take part in reflective practices to learn and develop within a shared communal life

What You Can Expect To Receive

- Supervision and regular training and guidance in the areas relevant to the role: group work and facilitation, practices of hosting, conflict dynamics, participatory leadership, local socio-political context
- Skills in engaging with people from different backgrounds
- Skills in engaging with school groups, youth groups, international university groups, and community groups
- Skills in living in an intentional community
- Ongoing mentoring
- Group and self-reflection
- Accommodation for the duration of your stay
- Basic staple foods to help prepare your own meals and lunch/dinner when kitchen staff are on site catering for residential guests
- A weekly communal meal will be resourced by Corrymeela

Skills, Knowledge And Experience Required From You

- An understanding of Corrymeela's mission and a commitment to its ethos
- An ability to communicate well with people from a wide range of backgrounds, communities and cultures
- An ability to use your own initiative
- An ability to reflect and learn from experiences
- An ability to deal with conflict well
- A commitment to get involved, learn and receive input from others
- A knowledge of community development and/or youth work
- A basic knowledge of Northern Irish history/culture
- Interest in aspects of conflict resolution and transformation

Out of Pocket Expenses

Corrymeela is committed to compensating volunteers for legitimate expenses, which can include groceries and other basic necessities, and well-being activities or items, in support of the year at Corrymeela. Currently this is up to £170 per month. There is no expectation of employment once the voluntary placement ends. Generally our weeks cover a period of 40 hours per week.

Flight, Visa, and Healthcare Information

All volunteers from outside the UK or the Republic of Ireland are required to apply for and obtain a UK Charity Worker visa (Temporary Work) in order to volunteer with Corrymeela. The cost for this UK Visa is currently £319 (GBP). In addition, volunteers who are at Corrymeela for six months or more who require a visa must pay a fee of usually £1,035 (GBP) to the National Health Service (NHS), payable at the time of the visa. Volunteers are expected to cover the cost of their travel. Please note we hold a limited number of Certificate of Sponsorships and these will be allocated to successful applicants who can satisfy us that they will be able to meet UKVI immigration requirements.

Medical Care

Volunteers will be able to register with the local GP (Doctor) at the Ballycastle Medical Centre during their first week here. Corrymeela will assist with this procedure and will encourage volunteers to remain in good health throughout the year.

Review Period & Ongoing Support

The Volunteer Programme Manager will meet with each volunteer on a regular basis to discuss whether the relationship is working out for both parties. Corrymeela reserves the right to request a volunteer to leave if the relationship is not working. If a Volunteer is sponsored on a UKVI Charity Worker Visa, in this instance, the sponsorship will be withdrawn.

Flexible Volunteering Patterns

As the nature of the work Corrymeela carries out is unpredictable and varied, all staff and volunteers are required to be flexible to meet the needs of the organisation. Evening and weekend volunteering will form a part of the rhythm of weekly duties. We expect you to be a full-time volunteer.

It is important that volunteers make good use of their time when not volunteering and you are encouraged to spend some time away from the Centre when you have the opportunity. Corrymeela will encourage volunteers not to take up part-time work or volunteering with any other organisation. We will agree a rhythm of regular volunteering time and revisit the schedule during support sessions to ensure volunteers well-being.

All volunteers who are here for a year will be eligible for 15 'floating' days spread out over the year and to be arranged with the Volunteer Programme Manager, plus an extra two weeks over the Christmas period when the Centre is closed and volunteers need to leave the Centre. Volunteers are encouraged to use this time to visit with family or friends.

Safeguarding

We require all staff and volunteers to undertake duties according to Corrymeela's Safeguarding Policy. Where appropriate, offers of volunteering placements are subject to a police background check from the applicant's country.

Fire Cover

All volunteers will be trained in emergency evacuation procedures – how to respond to a fire alarm, keeping themselves safe and how to safely evacuate guests. When on duty, volunteers will be on 24 hour Fire Cover duty and therefore must refrain from alcohol at all times.

Any requests to change a fire cover shift should in the first instance be made in advance to the Volunteer manager, short notice requests can be made to the Cover person. It is the volunteer's responsibility to have found a willing replacement if requesting a short notice request.

As the safety of our guests is both a statutory duty and part of our ethos, requests to be off Fire Cover may be refused by the Cover person.

Ex-Offenders

Corrymeela has a policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders. A criminal record will not necessarily debar anyone from being offered a voluntary placement.

These Role Outlines will be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances and is not intended to be a rigid and definitive outline, but should be regarded as providing guidelines of essential tasks and duties. Other duties of a similar and appropriate nature may be assigned from time to time. It is important to note that responsibilities may change to meet the evolving needs of the services that the charity provides.

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Apply Online Today

Volunteering at Corrymeela can be a life-changing experience, but it is not for everyone. It requires long hours, flexibility, and a real desire to grow through good and challenging encounters. We hope you will consider whether volunteering at Corrymeela is right for you.

or contact

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