



Name: Shelly Burrell

Job title: Youth Participation Officer

Employer: Sheffield Wildlife Trust, <http://www.wildsheffield.com/>

Starting your career

What attracted you to a career working in Sheffield's environment?

The opportunity to do hands on youth work with young people based around the environment and environmental issues.

How did you find out about the career opportunities that were available?

I saw the post for youth participation officer in my local job centre.

Your career path

How long have you been working in the industry?

I have been working for Sheffield Wildlife Trust since September 2006 but I have been employed to work with young people since I left uni in 2003.

What jobs have you done and how did you progress?

I started off doing voluntary work at an after school club and youth clubs etc, then I did sessional work (paid) for the Sheffield Black Drugs service working with young people after which I went into full time work with Rathbone training and support working with 13-19 year olds. Then I became the SWEET co-ordinator (temp-post) for Sheffield Black Drugs Service organising an under 18s event based around raising the awareness of drugs and sexual health issues amongst young people, in this time I also did voluntary work with the Broomhall Youth Forum. Then I went on to get my job with the Sheffield Wildlife Trust as Youth Participation Officer.

Training and skills

What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?

HND Leisure and Recreation Management, City & Guilds Leisure and Recreation levels 2&3, GNVQ Leisure and Tourism, Community Sports Leader Award, Basketball Coaching Award, OCN foundation level IT

What job-specific skills training and development have you undertaken since starting your career?

Health & Safety in the work place, first aid, equal opportunities, train the trainer, child protection, citizenship in action, engaging young people using architecture.



What have you gained from your training and development?

I have gained both personal and job specific skills, I'm more confident to carry out my work with young people

Your working day

What is a typical day for you?

Preparing sessions, carrying out project work with young people

What takes up most of your time?

Project work

What is the best bit about your job?

Working with young people

The future

What are your aspirations for your career?

To carry on working with young people, I would like to work with disadvantaged or disengaged young people and manage bigger projects.

How would you like to develop your skills further in the future?

To continue working with young people but particularly young offenders or those at risk.

Who has been an inspiration or influence on your career?

The young people I work with. Seeing them achieve and benefit from doing something positive, build on their skills and better their lives inspires me to continue my work.

If you had to "sell" a career in Sheffield's environment in one sentence, what would you say?

Set up projects with young people, help them to develop their skills and make a real difference to the community.