

# Could you be the next Sam?



## So, do you want to be a Youth Worker?

### YouthWorkWales

people like you make it what it is



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# So, you want to be the next Sam?

Youth work supports young people – it provides fun and interesting activities, helps them gain skills, build talents and abilities. It takes place in youth clubs, projects or on the streets.

**“Thanks Sam**  
The time I spent in OASIS have been the best moments of my school life. It has been brilliant fun and very educational.”



**Oasis Project**  
**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

[www.ThanksSam.org.uk](http://www.ThanksSam.org.uk)



**Speakers Corner Project**  
**Conwy Youth Service, Colwyn Bay**

## Why is it important?

- Youth work changes lives making a positive difference to young people.
- Youth workers don't tell young people what to do or when to do it, they help, support, inspire and encourage.
- Youth workers don't judge people, see everyone as equal giving young people as many chances as they need.
- Youth workers teach young people valuable skills in an informal way.

## What kind of activities do youth workers do with young people?

- Advice, information and support with issues
- Sports and outdoor pursuits
- Crafts, music, drama, dance
- Media and computer skills
- Day trips and residential (weekends away)
- Basic skills (helping to read and write)
- Practical skills (cooking, money handling, applications)
- International exchanges

## What kind of personal skills do youth workers have?

- Friendly and outgoing
- Good communicators
- Patient
- Energetic
- Organised
- Caring

## Why would you want to be a youth worker?

- Its rewarding and really helps people
- It's a fun job with lots of variety
- Excellent training opportunities with great pay
- Build on interests and skills you already have and teach others
- Gain qualifications at every level
- Change peoples lives and communities

# Real life Sams

## Omah

Omah is aged 40. A youth worker for 12 years, he works part time at Somali Integration Society supporting young asylum seekers and refugees increase awareness of services, health and education issues, and building positive images.

Born in Manchester, living in Somalia for 7 years, he returned and was educated in Wales. A friend suggested applying for a job building better community relationships. He is now trained and professionally qualified, completing 2 years of a degree course.



**I really got into youth work, something I immensely enjoy, because I was required to act as an advocate while fairly young within the Somali community.”**

## Enfys

Enfys joined the Wales Young Farmers Clubs' Staff team in March 2007. Wales YFC has over 6,000 members 10 – 26 years giving her 'great scope to work with young people'.

She has been a volunteer member of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru and YFC, and youth work has interested her since doing Welsh at university.



**Becoming Wales YFC Development Officer has allowed me to develop my interest in youth work and given me the spring that I need to gain qualifications in youth work and putting my tried and tested knowledge to practice.”**





## Jordan

Jordan, aged 25, runs Welsh medium activities outside of school showing young people that the language is special and can be used in every aspect life.



I became a youth worker to help young people feel confident to use the language and to develop opportunities for young people to socialise through Welsh, something I missed out on when growing up. It's great to see young people with a sense of pride in our heritage, language and in themselves."

## Jade

Jade, aged 24, wanted to study dance or media after A-levels. Going to America changed everything.



I worked as a camp counsellor with homeless young people 7 – 17 years, providing them with fun learning activities such as swimming, reading, and history. Although some found their behaviour difficult I thought they were amazing. I realised I wanted to become a youth worker, and use my skills with young people."



# Steps to become a youth worker

Steps to try	Age	Who can help?
Volunteer if you are doing the Welsh Baccalaureate at school	13–17	Volunteer Bureau GwirVol volunteering initiative for young people between 16 and 25 in Wales <a href="http://www.gwirvol.org">www.gwirvol.org</a>
Become a peer educator/mentor if you can	13–18	<a href="http://www.cliconline.co.uk">www.cliconline.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.credu.co.uk">www.credu.co.uk</a>
Work experience in the Youth Service	13–18	Careers advisor or teacher
Get or stay involved in a youth organisation or activities in your community	13–25	Youth worker, Learning Coach at school or look on websites for local information
Go for the awards e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, Baden Powell and Go for it (Guiding), First Aid	13–25	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator or <a href="http://www.theaward.org">www.theaward.org</a>
Shadow a youth worker	13–25	Careers advisor or <a href="http://www.careerswales.com">www.careerswales.com</a>
Join a youth forum or a school's council	13–25	Teacher or youth worker
Join Funky Dragon (National Youth Forum)	13–25	<a href="http://www.funkydragon.org">www.funkydragon.org</a>
Take the community participation option teacher in the 14–19 Learning Pathways at school	14–19	Learning Coach at school, or careers advisor
Start the junior leader training that may be on offer in your youth organisation and may be accredited	16–17	Youth worker, <a href="http://www.cliconline.co.uk">www.cliconline.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.credu.co.uk">www.credu.co.uk</a>
Train in the voluntary sector to become an assistant leader or leader	18+	<a href="http://www.cwvys.org.uk">www.cwvys.org.uk</a>
Student Voluntary action if you are in college	18+	Student Unions
Take paid employment in the Youth Service	18+	Local authority website, youth worker or <a href="http://www.careerswales.com">www.careerswales.com</a>
Youth work training in College or University, part-time or full-time	18+	Careers advisor or <a href="http://www.careerswales.com">www.careerswales.com</a> , <a href="http://www.ucas.ac.uk">www.ucas.ac.uk</a> , lecturer or tutor in college
Go on a youth work course run by the local authority youth service	18+	Local authority website or youth worker

*The information in this leaflet was put together from the views of young people and youth workers.*