

Path maintenance volunteer

leader



Purpose of role	Help protect the places we love to walk by maintaining and improving paths and rights of way as Volunteer Path Maintenance Team Leader.
Duties	<u>Before you set up a path maintenance team</u> Ensure that you have the knowledge and agreement of the local authority to carry out path maintenance work. Agree how you will work together and the process for getting permission to do maintenance work. Organise insurance for the team. In some cases, the local authority provides insurance for volunteer path maintenance teams. If you want the team to be covered under the Ramblers insurance, you need to familiarise yourself with the Insurance Guide, in the Insurance Toolkit. You will need to provide an up to date list of volunteers to ensure you have adequate insurance cover. <u>Planning a working party activity</u> • Work with your team and/or local authority to identify a path you would like to work on • Perform a surveys and take photos to make the case to the local authority/parish council • Obtain permission from private land owners and Highway Authority to carry out work • Agree working party dates and inform the local authority • Promote the activity to volunteers • Familiarise yourself with the site and assess any risks and issues. • Ensure you have the appropriate equipment and that they are in good condition. <u>On the day of the working party</u> • Be responsible for leading the working party, ensuring their safety at all times. Take a copy of the Working Party Health and Safety Checklist with you to act as an aide • Document the work undertaken, including before and after photos, to report path success • Ensure local authority sign off and keep a copy of the form (see Insurance page of the Path maintenance team toolkit) • Enjoy the working party and thank everyone for coming
Skills and experience	• A passion for the walking environment and an affinity with all the charitable aims of the Ramblers • Experience of similar environmental volunteering work such as gardening and carpentry • The ability to work with others and build relationships with stakeholders, including the local authority and local landowners • Some understanding of the law relating to Rights of Way • Good communication in order to welcome volunteers and give clear guidance • Awareness of health and safety • Leadership abilities to ensure the safety of the group
Support available	Existing Path Maintenance Team Leaders are always available to give support and advice. If necessary you may want to speak to your group about providing funding for training courses in First Aid, Health & Safety or handling various different power tools. Ramblers Central Office offer training on basic Rights of Way Law for leaders through our Volunteer Development Days. Further information is available from: volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com / 020 7339 8500