



RSC Volunteer Principles

[rsc.li/volunteer](https://www.rsc.li/volunteer)

Registered charity number: 207890

1. Introduction

Volunteering is deeply embedded in the culture of the RSC and is vital to delivering our chartered objectives.

These Principles recognise the importance of volunteers to the Royal Society of Chemistry. They set the standards for the volunteer experience, and the responsibilities of both the RSC and volunteers to each other.

Thousands of volunteers each year dedicate their time and expertise to be involved in our governance and boards and support our accreditation and professional standards, they significantly amplify the reach and impact of our charitable activities and are central to our publishing business.

2. About the RSC

We are the professional body for chemists in the UK with a global community of more than 50,000 members in 125 countries, and an internationally renowned publisher of high quality chemical science knowledge.

As a charity, we invest our surplus income to achieve our charitable objectives in support of the chemical science community and advancing chemistry. We are the largest non-governmental investor in UK chemistry education.

We connect our community by holding scientific conferences, symposia, workshops and webinars. We partner globally for the benefit of the chemical sciences. We support people teaching and practising chemistry in schools, colleges, universities and industry. And we are an influential voice for the chemical sciences.

Our global community – the beneficiaries of our charitable work – spans hundreds of thousands of scientists, librarians, teachers, students, pupils and people who love chemistry.

Our charter

Our Royal Charter was granted in 1980 and states that the object for which we are constituted is the general advancement of chemical science and its application and for that purpose:

- to foster and encourage the growth and application of such science by the dissemination of chemical knowledge
- to establish, uphold and advance the standards of qualification, competence and conduct of those who practise chemistry as a profession
- to serve the public interest by acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to the science and practice of chemistry
- to advance the aims and objectives of members of the Society so far as they relate to the advancement of the science or practice of chemistry

3. What is volunteering?

An individual is volunteering for the RSC when they give their time freely to do a role that has been agreed and defined by the organisation. Our volunteers are unpaid, however they should expect reimbursement for out of pocket expenses.

4. Why we involve volunteers

Involving volunteers in our work is at the heart of our heritage. We actively seek volunteer participation because volunteers:

- Amplify our passion for chemistry
- Challenge us and make sure we are relevant
- Bring sector-specific expertise, knowledge and insights into the organisation
- Connect us to our local, global, specialist communities
- Increase the reach of our activities to members and the wider community

5. Our commitment to volunteers

The RSC commits to providing a volunteer experience that is:

- Inclusive – we are welcoming and flexible and provide a variety of roles to recognise the different time commitment and motivations of individuals
- Collaborative – volunteers, staff and trustees work together collaboratively to deliver our strategic aims and, in doing so, our chartered objectives
- Supportive – we provide appropriate information, training, resources and assistance for volunteers to enable them to meet the responsibilities of their role(s)
- Positive – we are committed to supporting a meaningful and rewarding experience
- Valued – we value all volunteer contribution, skills, talent and expertise

6. What we expect from our volunteers

In order to meet our commitments to our community, we expect high standards from all our supporters, whether they are paid staff or volunteers. We would ask volunteers to:

- Act in a professional way when representing the RSC
- Act in a way that doesn't discriminate against or exclude anyone
- Perform volunteer duties to the best of their skills and ability
- Work with other volunteers and staff to achieve the RSCs strategic aims and objectives
- Support and act in accordance with the RSCs Charter and By-laws, policies, practices and management decisions

Royal Society of Chemistry
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