

SHOWMAKERS

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About Balmoral Show 15-18 May 2019

The Balmoral Show is the major event in the agri/food calendar in Northern Ireland. It's a traditional event that has been taking place for 151 years. The Show is organised by the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society which is a registered charity. Its main objective is to promote agriculture. The event showcases the best livestock (Beef, dairy, sheep, rabbits, poultry, goats and equine), promotes NI food, educational trip for school parties, provides family entertainment and International and National show jumping competitions. It's a fun event that attracts both rural and urban visitors from all over Ireland and the UK. It attracts around 115,000 visitors each year and runs over 4 days.

The Roles

This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to get involved with a long-standing traditional show. As a charity the Society relies on its members who play a very large part in the Show. At Balmoral Park we will require Showmakers to be our visitors first point of contact when entering the site. The main role will be to meet and greet visitors, provide them with a map and help them to find their way around. To be a point of contact for visitor questions regarding what's on, where events within the show are taking place, nearest catering or washroom facilities, etc. Other activities that Showmakers may be asked to assist with are to act as a runner between the media office and the main arena gathering results from the various competitions, act as a chaperone to the Show's mascot – Darcey the Donkey – and take registrations and photos of participants at the "Best Dressed Balmoral Style" competition running on Saturday 18 May. Return volunteers with previous experience of supporting other volunteers may be asked to act as a Team Leader supporting a team of up to 6 volunteers, acting as the first point of contact and managing breaks. The roles will be active from Wednesday 15 May to Saturday 18 May.

Showmaker

Skills, experience, attitudes etc

Showmakers will be the first point of contact for many of our visitors so it is important that as a Showmaker you are friendly, approachable, well presented, enjoy meeting people and have a can do attitude. Reliability is a must. You should be able to get on with a variety of people as you will be volunteering as part of a team. An interest in farming, the countryside, animals etc would be useful but not essential. You will not be asked to work with animals in any way. Due to the nature of events a certain amount of flexibility and adaptability is required.



Where?

The Show will be based at the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Balmoral Park, Halftown Road, Lisburn BT27 5RD. Due to the site location it would be useful if you have your own car. Free parking on site will be provided. Alternatively there are shuttle buses running each day from Lisburn train station.

Timescale

We envisage that a volunteer will be required for a minimum of 5 hours in any one day. Volunteers will be required from Wednesday 15th May until Saturday 18th May 2018. We would like volunteers to be involved as much as they can throughout this period. There will be an induction session on Monday 13th May between 3pm and 5pm at the show grounds to guide you around the site and the event programme before the actual show days.

Provisional times

Orientation Day – Monday 13th May, 3-5pm, at Balmoral Park

Show days – Wednesday 15th May – Saturday 18th May

8.30am – 6.00pm or a morning 8.30am – 1.30pm or afternoon 1.00pm – 6.00pm

Support, supervision, training

It is a requirement that new volunteers and Team Leaders are able to attend the orientation session prior to the Balmoral Show. The training will be onsite at Balmoral Park. Support will be provided from the Volunteer leader or from members of the full-time organising staff. Volunteers should be able to ask for help as and when required. The staff are a friendly team of people who can all be approached for help if needed.

Out of pocket expenses

Public transport fares will be reimbursed in full and car travel expenses can be reimbursed up to 100 miles return journey per day. You will be required to complete a claim form for out of pocket expenses. Mileage will be paid at 40p per mile. Snack vouchers will be provided for meals whilst volunteering on site. Free parking on site for volunteers.

Uniforms for Volunteers

A branded uniform consisting of baseball style cap, t-shirt & fleece will be provided. We would ask that volunteers would be able to provide their own black trousers/skirt and their own comfortable footwear.

Closing date for applications

Friday 3 May 2019