

# Platinum Leadership Awards



## Future Leader EXPLORER CHALLENGE

This Explorer Challenge has two parts. Both parts can be completed at the same time. Participants will need to:

1. Volunteer at a centre for 30 hours.
2. Volunteer for a charity for 20 hours.

### 1. Volunteering at the centre

As part of volunteering at the centre participants will need to:

- Discuss with the coach or yard manager what they want to achieve and find out how they can be most helpful to the centre.
- Show they can take responsibility.
- Take on one of the following roles:
  - ambassador
  - eco-ambassador
  - mentor (mentor a less experienced peer, someone completing the Bronze Leadership award, a less experienced rider or centre helper)

Volunteering hours can be logged in the Explorer book. There is also an interim volunteering check sheet available on the hub to review progress at a mid-way point.

### 2. Volunteer for a charity

Find out about local charities where they may be able to volunteer.

Commit to regular volunteering to complete the 20hrs for example one hour a week for approximately six months or volunteer for a day at a time, for example stewarding or jump judging at a British Riding Clubs competition.

Participants will need to contact the charity/organisation to find out about volunteering opportunities available to them. Opportunities may be available with:

- British Horse Society <https://www.bhs.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>
- British Riding Clubs [merlin.perlo@bhs.org.uk](mailto:merlin.perlo@bhs.org.uk)
- Riding for the Disabled Association <https://www.rda.org.uk/volunteer/> Find an RDA group to volunteer for <https://www.rda.org.uk/rda-groups/>
- Animal charities such as Blue Cross, RSPCA
- Any other charity or not for profit organisation of interest to the participant\*

## Examples include;

Taking responsibility :

- Assist in the office, greeting customers and answering the phone
- Make a profile all the horses on the yard – keep those records up to date
- Clean your tack after your lesson
- Tidy the yard/tack room/feed room
- Care for a horse on box rest

Ideas for Yard ambassador:

- Being a role model to others at the centre
- Conducting tours of the yard for new customers
- Writing a positive review of the centre (e.g. trust pilot)
- Encouraging others to write reviews (e.g. trust pilot)
- Promoting the benefits of riding/activities with horses generally, through own social media or wider activities.
- Give a presentation to others on the benefits of riding/activities with horses

Ideas for eco ambassador:

- Assess how environmentally friendly the yard to identify areas for improvement

# Platinum Leadership Awards



- Assess all the activities done as part of the business and the impact on the environment
- Make signs to put up around the yard to remind people to turn lights off
- Come up with a scheme to reward or promote lift sharing
- Give a presentation to the yard on ways to help the environment
- Look at examples for Silver innovator

## Mentoring:

- Start with a mentorship agreement
- Have an initial meeting - plan how to help, set goals with the mentee
- Set up regular meetings with mentee to review progress
- Have a final meeting with the mentee to end the mentorship
- Review and self-reflect with coach on the process and what was gained from it.
- A mentorship template is available on the hub.

## Checklist for achievement:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer for 30hrs at the centre</li> </ul>	<p><i>Provide evidence of a log for the hours completed volunteering. This can be on paper or digitally (e.g. document, app, notes on phone)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take responsibility for something at the centre</li> </ul>	<p><i>Take responsibility for at least one task, this could be an area of the yard, a particular task or a horse's care.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take on a role at the centre (ambassador, eco-ambassador or mentor)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Provide evidence either via recorded information or via discussion as to how they have taken on the role chosen.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer for 20hrs for another charity</li> </ul>	<p><i>This should be signed off by a representative of the charity they have supported (e.g. member of staff, senior volunteer or similar). Participants can volunteer for more than one charity.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on experience volunteering</li> </ul>	<p><i>Complete the questions in the Horse Explorers booklet (Explorer Challenge pages) to reflect on experiences and skills learnt during the time spent volunteering.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know the benefits of volunteering</li> </ul>	<p><i>Know three benefits of volunteering.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know how to get the most out of volunteering</li> </ul>	<p><i>Participant has had discussions with centre/coach about what they want to get out of volunteering and how they can be most useful to centre.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to behave professionally</li> </ul>	<p><i>Participant has shown they can contribute in a professional environment (could be demonstrated through timeliness, being helpful, customer care, being reliable)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to take responsibility</li> </ul>	<p><i>Participant has taken responsibility for at least one task/area at the yard over time volunteering.</i></p>

# Platinum Leadership Awards



## Things to consider

- The minimum age for children to volunteer is 14 years old. For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/volunteering/when-you-can-volunteer](http://www.gov.uk/volunteering/when-you-can-volunteer). The minimum age a child can work is 13 years old <https://www.gov.uk/child-employment>.
- Each charity/organisation will have their own policy for young people volunteering and this may affect the types of activities they will be able to get involved with and the requirements of adult or parental supervision.
- Its important to check in with the mentor and mentee to check that the mentorship is benefitting both parties.
- Check activities chosen by the participant as part of ambassador roles are suitable and parental permission is granted where required (e.g. social media)
- Ensure appropriate risk assessments are in place.



**HORSE  
EXPLORERS**

Part of the Challenge Awards