

Costume Character Volunteer role description

As part of the wider entertainment team, this role is to provide quality costume character entertainment for patients and families in Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). The performer must have experience or dancing or acting to be able to perform within one of our costume characters or superhero characters. The character will be accompanied by a trained 'chaperone' whose role is to escort characters and be the liaison between participant and character.

The character will have set wards and hospital areas to perform in and abide strictly to the character's personality and behaviours (this information is provided separately).

Time commitment:

Four hour sessions, with appropriate breaks. Usually for a full week, according to need and set timetable.

Key tasks:

- To be guided by requests for the character – outpatients, wards, reception area, special events
- To learn and practice the character's personality and behaviours, performing as the character at all times when in costume
- To undertake all tasks according to the rules and guidelines of GOSH Costume Characters
- Alert GOSH staff to any issues of concern

Desired skills and experience:

- Experienced performer – dancer or actor
- Experience of working with young people/children (including babysitting, volunteering)
- Creative and play skills
- Emotionally mature
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Understanding of (ability to learn) personal/professional boundaries

We will provide:

- Supervision and support from a dedicated member of staff at GOSH
- Induction to GOSH
- Specific training for the role
- Local induction to the ward or department
- On-going up-dates and information
- Reimbursement of travel expenses (up to a maximum of Zone 6 return journey)
- A meal voucher for £2.50
- References can be provided after six months of volunteering