



# StreetGames | Young Volunteers Program

## “There’s No ‘I’ in Team” Basketball Program

### Qualifications Gained

- 4 Level 2 Basketball Coaches
- 3 Level 1 Wheelchair Basketball
- 2 Level 2 Basketball Officials
- 2 Level 1 Football Coaches
- 2 Level 2 Fitness Instructors

### Grassroot Qualifications

- 1 Quicksticks
- 1 Ultimate Frisbee
- 1 Rocketball
- 1 Tag Rugby

### The Summary

StreetGames Young Volunteers Program emerged following an initiative developed from a group of young people in the Swindon area, who under the guidance of StreetGames have not only grown a WEBBA Basketball team, but have also made a significant impact on the local community. They’ve done this by leveraging the sporting and team building skills acquired from growing the basketball team, to bring other youth communities together and get them active!

### The Challenge

StreetGames Young Volunteers Program took life shortly after the Walcot basketball sessions became so popular, its capacity had to be expanded. Taking this into consideration, a few of the young people from the area starting with the oldest volunteer Ben, asked Street Games development worker David Colclough if there was a way to establish their own basketball club. With Swindon Sonics men’s team disbanding, the local Swindon Premiere Inn Cavaliers team was the only available team to play for, outside of establishing their own team.

Shortly after, David approached Rob Ferguson and John Brind who both manage the NGB Cavaliers team to see whether it would be feasible to start a spin-off team under the Cavaliers banner. With the support of both Rob and John, the Young Volunteers began planning their new basketball season. Following this, it was decided that in return for David’s time assisting with planning and coaching their new team through the first season, the Young Volunteers would reciprocate by volunteering for the Street Games program.

### The Results

To launch the Young Volunteers Program, the young people started helping out with the National Street Games tournament in Gloucester, which they then followed up by volunteering at the Youth Services Youth Festival. In order to help finance the Young Volunteers Basketball initiative, they submitted bids and secured two Youth Opportunity Funds. The first was to help them with their initial entry into WEBBA League Basketball. Whilst the second allowed Youth First Centre for Health to remodel the basketball facilities in order to make it a more attractive venue for young people. In conjunction with the remodelling project, the Young Volunteers also organised an 8 week Basketball League. With the help of StreetGames, 66 young people attended and participated in the program, which held its championship tournament during Walcot’s Monday night session.

*“Since I’ve been a kid, this is the only project that’s done what they said they’d do, and that’s getting basketball going in Swindon.”*

Says Jamal

Aside from their Sunday League, the Young Volunteers also supported Leisure Services with putting on a basketball tournament at St Marks Park as part of the Swindon Festival of Sport. They followed this up by assisting in *The King of the Court* Youth Festival Tournament at Quarry Road. In addition, they took the initiative to run other fund raising exercises including a 60 for 60 campaign (60 minutes of Sports for 60 days). The funds raised provided them the opportunity to play in the Seattle Basketball Invitational Tournament in America. Furthermore, the Young Volunteers assisted at 10 different schools doing breakfast clubs, lunch clubs and after school clubs. They then followed up the 60 for 60 event with a midnight madness basketball session that ran from 12 noon till midnight, which they then progressed by providing regional sporting activities at various parks across Swindon.

This initiative has resulted in the Young Volunteers each logging over 60 hours of volunteers time. They have also provided a great backup resource for the Premier Inn Cavaliers team, who on a few occasions have utilised the Young Volunteers to play in the Division 1 when players have been hurt or could not attend games.

*“These guys have been so beneficial to Cavaliers basketball; they really helped to increase our pool of quality players.”*

Rob Ferguson, Joint Coach, Swindon Cavaliers



*“In the beginning I was totally for it, with the Success of the Club, it has been nice to provide basketball for young people in Swindon at all different levels, and that’s from recreational to a very competitive level now thanks to Street Games and its Young Volunteers.”*

John Brind, Joint Coach, Swindon Cavaliers

## The Future

Aside from assisting in the StreetGames Annual Festival, in the very near future it is planned that the Young Volunteers will assist with the development of a secondary school Basketball League, a Ladies Basketball team to enter WEBBA as well as a Wheelchair Basketball team in partnership with the Swindon Borough Councils Disability Coordinator, Ben Humphry.

## A brief look at the Volunteers:

*“StreetGames has opened my eyes to new areas of life and has given me new challenges. It has made me a stronger coach and basketball player. Through StreetGames, I have managed to make new friends and find myself in new opportunities all the time.”*

Tyrone, South West StreetGames Volunteer of the Year Award

*“Before helping out with StreetGames and playing basketball, I was always getting into trouble by fighting because my neighbourhood isn’t very nice. Now I just channel all my energy into volunteering and basketball.”*

Andzej - Who grew up near Churchfield School

*“Before I started helping out with StreetGames I use to go out clubbing and drinking loads. Now I have got to keep myself in shape for basketball so I can help my teammate’s and get better as a player.”*

Marek, Andzej’s brother

*“I had a serious head injury at college and was told that I had to find a more suitable sport. Not only did you guys let me join the team as a reserve player, but through time I have earned my spot on the team and lost 4 and half stone in the process.”*

Mike from Swindon College

*“I grew up as a chronic asthmatic and had difficulty controlling his weight. Since the help of Street games I find my self totally fit. I play basketball and with the help of some of the guys on the team I have even joined a gym where I work out with them.”*

Ben, Swindon

*“Before StreetGames, lets just be frank and say I wasn’t a very productive person. Now I have a focus and friends that I can count on.”*

Nic, Swindon

*“StreetGames has not only restored my dream to be a basketball player, but has brought the game back to life for me.”*

Aaron, Swindon New College

*“If you had told us a year ago that I would have these qualifications, I simply wouldn’t have believed you, we now have career paths we can take.”*

Chris & Rich, Swindon New College

## Company Profile

StreetGames is a new national charity, established in 2006 to promote sport for young people living in the most disadvantaged communities. We have tried and tested ways of engaging young people who are currently outside sport. Up and down the country, StreetGames delivers sport and dance to young people where they want it, at times when they want it and in a style they want. We deliver sport to the doorstep of young people who are not members of sports clubs and are waiting for the chance to join in.

Our aims:

- to get more youngsters in deprived areas playing sport;
- to spread skills and knowledge so other sports workers learn how to involve these youngsters;
- to advocate greater investment in disadvantaged communities through sport;
- to support agencies interested in using sport for renewal aims;
- to improve the quality of sports delivery in renewal areas.

[streetgames.org.uk](http://streetgames.org.uk)

For more information regarding this project or StreetGames, contact David Colclough at: 0779 487 7674