



www.minemania.co

MineMania Volunteer Information Pack

Welcome to MineMania!

At MineMania, we believe in creating a safe, fun, and inclusive environment for neurodiverse children to make friends, learn, play and thrive. Your time and dedication will make a real difference to the children and families we support.

This information pack will give you everything you need to know about volunteering with us, including what we do, what your role involves, and how we'll support you every step of the way.

Who We Are and What We Do

MineMania is a free Minecraft server based in the UK. We're more than just a game – we're a community. Our server is specially designed for children with autism and additional needs, offering them a space where they can feel safe, have fun, and develop valuable skills. While most of our members are on the autistic spectrum, we don't ask for or require any diagnosis. It is run on a not for profit, voluntary basis. We raise funds from donations on [Ko-Fi](#) and providing in person pop-up LAN gaming workshops commercially.

Our core activities:

1. Social Groups: These are regular free of charge sessions where children can chat, collaborate on builds, and enjoy Minecraft with peers who share their interests.
2. Fixed term courses in coding, game design and other digital arts. Either on a funded, subsidised or paid for basis.
3. In person LAN gaming pop ups at events, holiday clubs, and commercial bookings.
4. One off events eg virtual Christmas Parties, virtual inspirational career talks with industry leaders, build team events.

We have a lot of different playing and communication styles and needs on the server, which is why your help is so important. The majority of the children respond well to having MineMania Admins and Helpers on the server, and if they know that one of us is on the server, they are much more likely to come on and enjoy interacting with us.

The server is open 24/7, and we have a small number of members from different time zones. Our weekly social sessions take place on:



- Tuesdays 6pm-7pm (no Zoom just on the server)
- Thursdays 6pm-7pm (with Zoom)
- Saturdays 6pm - 7pm (with Zoom)
- Sundays 730pm-830pm (Minecraft Education session with Dan Noble)

Your Role as a Volunteer

As a volunteer, you'll help create a positive and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Your specific duties might include:

1. **Moderating the Minecraft Server and/or Discord Channels:** You'll help keep our server a safe and welcoming place for all participants. This means assisting the Server Admin and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in monitoring chat and that our Server Code of Conduct is adhered to, escalating any concerns to the DSL, and supporting members in restoring any grieving incidents. You will not be alone with the children on the server during our group sessions.
2. **Engaging with Children:** Your friendly and supportive approach will encourage children to take part, make friends, and build their confidence. This could involve chatting in-game, helping with builds, or simply being a reassuring presence.
3. **Supporting Workshops:** If you're comfortable, you might assist with coding or game design sessions. Don't worry if you're new to these skills – we'll provide training, and our sessions are designed to be fun and easy to follow.
4. **Technical Troubleshooting:** Sometimes, children might run into technical issues. Whether it's helping someone reconnect to the server or sorting out a settings problem, your patience and problem-solving skills will be invaluable. If you aren't a technical whiz that's ok, we can provide training on common issues, or you might prefer to stick to a supporting play role if technical support isn't your interest.



What We Expect from Volunteers

We ask that all our volunteers embody the values and ethos of MineMania. Here's what that means in practice:

- **Respect:** Treat everyone – children, parents, and fellow volunteers – with kindness and understanding. Remember that our participants may have unique challenges, different play and communication styles and needs, and your patience will make a big difference. Our motto is 'Come As You Are' .
- **Reliability:** We rely on our volunteers to help sessions run smoothly. If you commit to a time slot, please make every effort to attend.
- **Safeguarding:** The safety and wellbeing of our participants are paramount. You'll need to follow our safeguarding procedures at all times.
- **Communication:** Stay in touch with the team. If you're unsure about anything or encounter a problem, let us know straight away – we're here to help.

What You'll Gain as a Volunteer

Volunteering with MineMania isn't just about giving back – it's also a fantastic opportunity to learn, grow, and be part of a supportive community. Here's what you can expect:

- **Training and Support:** You'll receive training to prepare you for your role, plus ongoing guidance from our team.
- **New Skills:** From learning about Minecraft moderation tools to gaining insight into supporting neurodiverse children, you'll develop transferable skills that are valuable in any setting.
- **Making a Difference:** The time you give will have a direct impact on children's lives, helping them build confidence, learn new skills, and feel part of a community.



- Recognition: We're happy to provide references or certificates to acknowledge your contributions – just let us know.

Our Policies and Guidelines

Safeguarding: Full details of expectations and requirements are in the Safeguarding policies and procedures. Please ensure you are familiar with these documents - and pay specific attention to the points we have highlighted below.

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. You'll need to:

- Complete an Enhanced DBS Check – we arrange and pay for this.
- Complete the NSPCC Online Tutor safeguarding training session before you start volunteering. You will arrange and book this, and we will refund you the cost (£25) upon completion and you emailing us your certificate.
- Report any concerns about a child's welfare to our Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Provide references

Code of Conduct: Full details of expectations and requirements are in the Code of Conduct Document. Please ensure you are familiar with this - and please specific attention to the points we have highlighted below.

We want everyone involved with MineMania to feel respected and valued. This means:

- Being a positive role model in all your interactions.
- Avoiding any language or behaviour that could be seen as inappropriate.
- Respecting the individual needs and abilities of every child.
- Adhering to all relevant Creative Active Lives Policies and Procedures including Volunteer Policy, Code of Conduct and Online Safety and Social Media Policy (as found on Creative Active Lives CIC website)



Online Safety: Full details of expectations and requirements are in the Online safety policy. Please ensure you are familiar with this document – please pay specific attention to the points from the policy we have highlighted below.

Working in an online environment comes with specific responsibilities:

- Use only official MineMania channels for communication with children or parents.
- Keep personal information private and avoid sharing your own or asking for any personal or private information from children or parents.
- Learn how to use our moderation tools effectively to keep the server safe.

How We'll Support You

We're committed to making sure you feel confident and supported in your role. Before you start, you'll receive training on:

- Using Minecraft as a platform for social interaction and learning.
- Server moderation tools and handling in-game conflicts.
- Basic coding and game design concepts (if relevant to your role).
- Safeguarding children and understanding neurodiversity.

Once you're up and running, you'll have access to ongoing support from our team, as well as regular opportunities to give feedback and share ideas.

Next Steps

Here's what to do next:

1. Complete Your Application: Fill in the volunteer application form and return to rachel@creativeactivelives.org.uk. We will then arrange an interview.



2. We will arrange for your DBS check and ask you to undertake online safeguarding training.

3. Start Volunteering: Once you're all set, we'll match you with sessions that suit your availability and interests.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need further support, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Volunteer Coordinator: Rachel Conlisk

Email: rachel@creativeactivelives.org.uk

Website: www.minemania.co / www.creativeactivelives.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/minemaniaclub

Read more about our work: <https://healgameukraine.click/en/rachel-conlisk-minecraft-breaks-down-so-many-barriers/>

Ko-Fi: <https://ko-fi.com/minemania>

