Case Study: Storytelling Festival

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Describe the project in your own words

Organising a Storytelling Festival for the Yorkshire Museum, including writing and performing stories based on the exhibits in the Yorkshire Museum for an audience of young children and adults, and also advertising the event. Our group of 18 split into 3 groups to cover the different exhibits (Medieval, Roman and Dinosaurs) and we brought our creative efforts together at the end to deliver three amazing stories.

Why did you apply for a team volunteering project?

Purely for the fun of it! I love writing stories, I love telling stories and stories based on history (especially Roman history) have an extra challenge to them, which really interested me.

What were the highlights of your project?

Getting hold of some Roman armour to perform stories in. I only went to ask at the Roman Bath Museum on the off chance and it really paid off. Just goes to show how taking a chance can be really useful!

Were there any surprises?

One of the other participants, part of the ‘Dinosaurs’ group, dropping out at the last minute! That was worrying, but his team mates were brilliant and were able to cover the gap flawlessly. I think the diversity of stories was surprising too – who’d have thought there were so many different interpretations of ‘storytelling’.

What did you gain from your project?

Greater confidence in my own abilities. In terms of working together with others, as well as with professionals in a more formal setting, I definitely felt my skills improved. We worked together, tackled any problems head on and the result was very positive. I’ll never be daunted by taking on a challenge like that again.

Did the project influence any future career plans?

I want to be a writer and director for film and television in the future and if anything, this project only confirmed my ambition. Organising a creative event like this bears many similarities to organising a film shoot, so I definitely gained from the experience.

What advice would you give students considering taking part in a team volunteering project?

Make sure you choose a project where you can imagine really enjoying the tasks it will involve. You’re going to spend a lot of time on it, so it’s important that it is the right choice. I would also suggest you come into the project with a few ideas about how you want to do things already, that way you’ll have something to go from when you and your group start the planning process.