

Title	Volunteer Cycle Mechanic
Group/Organisation	Yah'La
Location	Gateshead (Rowlands Gill/ Highfield area)
Time commitment	Flexible
Reporting to	Keith Stamp, Coordinator for 'Yah'La' Cycling UK Community Club, keith.stamp@outlook.com

About Cycling UK

Cycling UK inspires and helps people to cycle and keep cycling. We believe that cycling is more than just transport; it makes you feel good, gives you a sense of freedom and creates a better environment for everyone. We also know that cycling can play a major role to address the impact of social, economic and health inequalities across the United Kingdom. Our cycling clubs and groups organise regular cycling activity for their members and the wider community.

About us

'Yah'La' is a Gateshead based Cycling UK Community Club who organises cycling activities for the Syrian Community. The group was set up in 2017 by a group of volunteers who wanted to help Syrian families recently moved into the Highfield/ Rowlands Gill area feel welcome. The group organises cycling activities as a way for the new arrivals and existing residents to mix and socialise. They have led bikes rides, helped people ride for the first time and given many in the Syrian community their own bike (through community donations). Through bike rides beneficiaries have discovered local routes helping them get to school, training and work. The group is now concentrating on ensuring that the donated bikes given to beneficiaries are kept working so people can keep pedalling!

Purpose

'Yah'La' is looking for an experienced Cycle Mechanic to work with and support members of the group in fixing bikes. This will ensure that members can keep cycling and upskill those wanting to develop their own cycle maintenance skills, ensuring the sustainability of the group!

Responsibilities

- Primarily to be a Mentor and share your skills by working with members of the Syrian community helping them to fix bikes.
- Servicing and repair of bicycles to a high standard
- Helping to create a friendly, safe and inclusive atmosphere
- Keeping up to date records, service reports, risk assessments completed for the working environment
- Willingness to work alongside and communicate with other members of 'Yah'La's volunteer team.
- Reporting any serious incidents during the activity to Cycling UK and our insurance brokers

Skills

Ideally, you will have already, or be willing to work towards, the following:

- A positive attitude towards people from other backgrounds, faiths and ethnicities. Along with knowledge and awareness of the issues people from other cultures face in the UK.
- Hold a Bike Maintenance Qualification AND/OR be able to evidence bike maintenance experience
- Sensitive, patient and empathetic to people's needs. As some members of the group have limited English.
- Friendly, welcoming and encouraging attitude
- Able to work one a one basis with beneficiaries
- Able to assess someone's general wellbeing
- Able to work with other volunteers
- Reliable, well-organised and punctual

Desirable Skills

Experience of working with/ supporting individuals from BME communities.

Benefits

By sharing your knowledge and skills as a Cycle Mechanic you will be enabling members of the Syrian community to be independent with having a working bike. You'll be upskilling members of the community through sharing your knowledge, helping them flourish in their new home.

This position would provide useful and relevant experience for those wanting to work in both cycling and wider community development roles.

You'll benefit from:

- Feeling of wellbeing, through helping the Syrian community settle in the area
- The opportunity to meet new people and make lasting friendships
- Volunteers working for groups registered with Cycling UK are covered under the Organisers Liability Insurance Policy
- Practical and communication skills development
- Satisfaction of increasing health and wellbeing of the community through cycling

Training and support

- Support from the volunteer group leader
- Shadowing of existing 'Yah'La' volunteer's to become familiar with the group
- Ongoing support, from local Cycling UK Development Officer Andrew Thorp and Cycling UK
- Training opportunities (identified by local Development Officer and Cycling UK)

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

You will need to sign and follow the group's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct and be willing to undergo a DBS check.