



# VOLUNTEERS

## OCEAN YOUTH TRUST SOUTH COULD NOT TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS.

In 2011, Ocean Youth Trust South became the first sailing charity to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, equivalent in status to the MBE. This was presented to us by HRH The Princess Royal.



We have around 120 active volunteers.



### At sea

Some are trained and qualified to sail with young people on board *Prolific*. Each year, around 80 volunteers between them give over 1,000 days to sail on our voyages. Three in ten of our volunteer sea staff were aged 25 or under. Young people who do really well on a voyage may be invited back to train as volunteers (which can mean years of free sailing): those over 16 can sail as bosuns, responsible for basic maintenance and safety checks; those over 18 can train as watchleaders.

We provide extensive training to our volunteers. This includes online courses in subjects ranging from Child Protection to Food Hygiene, as well as an annual shorebased training weekend which covers topics ranging from GMDSS radio, first aid, radar and diesel engines through to youthwork, disability awareness and more.

Volunteers come from all walks of life. Young crew members whose backgrounds have given them limited horizons and low aspirations will meet up to six or seven volunteers on any voyage – and perhaps hear about jobs, activities and interests they have never previously encountered.

### On shore

Volunteers contribute well over 500 days of work each year on the refit and maintenance of our boats. Without them, this work would cost us tens of thousands of pounds in labour.

Some volunteers provide invaluable work in the office, helping with administration, processing booking forms etc. Others help with fundraising, researching grant opportunities and writing applications. We have local support groups in West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, the West Country and Dorset. These groups help to raise money, promote our work in their local area, and provide invaluable assistance when *Prolific* visits their region.

**“THE BEST THING ABOUT A VOYAGE IS WATCHING A YOUNG CREW MEMBER CHANGE FROM SOMEONE WHO MAY BE WITHDRAWN, AFRAID TO TRY NEW THINGS AND NOT EVEN SURE IF THEY WANT TO BE ON THE VOYAGE AT ALL – BECOMING SOMEONE WHO IS CONFIDENT, JOINING IN WITH EVERYTHING, MAKING NEW FRIENDS, AND GOING HOME WITH A CERTIFICATE, DETERMINED TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT A GREAT TIME THEY HAVE HAD – AND HOPEFULLY TO COME BACK SOME TIME!”**

**STEVE LACEY,  
WATCHLEADER AND PROFESSIONAL YOUTH WORKER**

**“I STARTED SAILING AS A YOUNG PERSON WITH THE OCEAN YOUTH TRUST WHEN I WAS 14, AND I’VE BEEN HOOKED EVER SINCE. GROWING UP WITH OYT SOUTH, BOTH PERSONALLY AND THROUGH THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THE BOAT, I’VE LEARNT AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE MYSELF IN STRESSFUL SITUATIONS AS WELL AS LEARNING ABOUT LEADERSHIP. THIS HAS HELPED ME HUGELY TO PROGRESS IN MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE. DURING A PRETTY GRUELLING APPLICATION PROCESS TO GOOGLE, I WAS ASKED “GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHEN YOU HAD TO MOTIVATE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH LOW MORALE”. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS A LARGE PART OF WHAT OYT SOUTH DOES AND I WAS ABLE TO PULL TOGETHER A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES FROM MY EXPERIENCE TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT I WAS SAYING. I NOW LEAD AN ENGINEERING TEAM AT GOOGLE AND CAN HONESTLY SAY, OYT SOUTH HAS PLAYED A MASSIVE ROLE IN GETTING ME WHERE I AM TODAY.”**

**EMMA BURROWS, WATCHLEADER**

