

## Explorer Miles

Explorer Miles is British Exploring's very own volunteering initiative that provides you with a unique opportunity to earn your way to the Peruvian Amazon, the mountainous Indian Himalayas, or the forests and rivers of the Canadian Yukon through taking part in social action in your local community.

We want to make it manageable for you to fund your way to expedition and at the same time provide a platform for you to make a real difference in your community. This could be volunteering, fundraising, campaigning, setting up a social enterprise or any action that has a positive impact on both yourself and other people. You can also find out about the various fundraising options available to you on our webpage [here](#).

Each year we fundraise to build a pot of money for our Explorer Miles fund. Any award we make in return for volunteering is made possible by our supporters and members. As a result, **it is important to note that we cannot guarantee any payments**. Explorers taking part in the scheme must follow our guidelines fully and log their hours regularly – and we will make all reasonable efforts to keep Explorers informed of the level of the fund in the build-up to their expedition.

We are working with [vInspired](#), the UK's leading volunteering charity, to make logging your Explorer Miles as easy as possible with the added bonus of earning vInspired's [volunteering badges](#) as you go along. Starting with earning £100 and your v10 badge for 10 hours volunteering, all the way up to £1000 with the v100 badge and a 100 hours volunteering. Volunteering opportunities can be found on vInspired's website or found locally.

This handout will give you all the important information you need.



## Signing up for Explorer Miles

1. Create your account on vInspired ([www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)).
2. Search for "British Exploring" and sign up for Explorer Miles on Vinspired
3. Enter your postcode to find volunteering opportunities local to you or create your own volunteering or social action project.

4. Sign up for an opportunity and start logging your hours ([for full terms and conditions click here](#)).
5. When logging your hours please specify the individual date, timings and details of every activity undertaken. This helps us verify your work and will mean you have a complete diary of the volunteering should you come to talk about the experience in the future.
6. Hours must be logged within two weeks of completing.

**Prefer to watch a video about this?** -> <https://youtu.be/V9yFHs-n3z8>

## We will give out the Explorer Miles like this

10 Hours = 100 Explorer Miles = v10 badge = £100 off your expedition cost

30 Hours = 300 Explorer Miles = v30 badge = £300 off your expedition cost

50 Hours = 500 Explorer Miles = v50 badge = £500 off your expedition cost

100 Hours = 1000 Explorer Miles = v100 badge = £1000 off your expedition cost

## Already volunteering or participate in a project that does not appear on vInspired?

If you already volunteer, run a social action project or have a project that does not appear on the vInspired website you can still credit hours you are volunteering and earn Explorer Miles.



1. Follow the same sign up steps as before.
2. **Then instead of searching for volunteering opportunities select the "Record" button and you will be asked to enter the details of your project including a referee.** This is the name and contact details of someone involved in your project who can confirm what you do there. This person should be aged 18 or over, and you must ask their permission before giving us their details. This is so we can verify the hours.
3. When logging your hours please specify the individual date, timings and details of the activity undertaken. This helps us verify your work and will mean you have a complete diary of the volunteering if you get asked about it in the future!
4. Hours must be logged within two weeks of completing.

**You cannot count previous hours of volunteering, so only hours volunteered after you have a confirmed space on an expedition, including paying your deposit, will be valid towards Explorer Miles.**

If you have any doubts about whether your project qualifies then please email [info@britishexploring.org](mailto:info@britishexploring.org) .

## Applying for an award?

As reach 10, 30, 50, 100 hours you can apply for the appropriate v10, v30, v50, v100 award. You need to go on to your vInspired platform and apply for you're the appropriate award. It's a pretty straight forward – here is the link ( <https://vinspired.com/get-awards>).

When you visit the page click on the appropriate V10/30/50/100 star, fill in the short evaluation form and then submit for the award.

**Please don't forget to British Exploring as the Nominated Validating Organisation. This is essential to us administrating the award.**

If you cannot select British Exploring, make sure you have signed up for Explorer Miles (See above section -Signing up for Explorer Miles)

When the hours have been verified we will take the corresponding value off your expedition cost.

**Prefer to watch a video about this? -> [https://youtu.be/B\\_gKeP6RnOk](https://youtu.be/B_gKeP6RnOk)**

## Explorer Miles – Full Terms and Conditions

1. Explorer Miles payments cannot be guaranteed. British Exploring Society fundraise for the Explorer Miles fund on an annual basis. We will work hard every year to fill the fund to cover all volunteering hours completed by our explorers and we will keep explorers informed of the level of the fund in the build-up to their expedition.
2. To qualify for the Explorer Miles scheme all participants must have been accepted onto an expedition with British Exploring.
3. Explorer Miles scheme allows participants to volunteer in order to receive a bursary towards their expeditions cost. The scheme operates like this:  
  
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30 Hours = 300 Explorer Miles = v30 badge = £300 off your expedition cost  
50 Hours = 500 Explorer Miles = v50 badge = £500 off your expedition cost  
100 Hours = 1000 Explorer Miles = v100 badge = £1000 off your expedition cost
4. For volunteering hours to be valid the participant must log their hours on the vInspired website and in addition to this have applied for the Explorer Miles opportunity on the vInspired website. At the time of publishing this can be found here: <https://vinspired.com/opportunities/22920>
5. Volunteering opportunities can be found through the vInspired website, or can be manually added onto the platform.
6. Any volunteering project must have a referee, who is responsible for scheme. The referee must be over the age of 18 years old. Correct contact details must be provided for this referee.
7. Volunteering is only valid on opportunities that fulfil the remit of social action. Social action is about doing something practical that makes a positive change. This could be volunteering, fundraising, campaigning, setting up a social enterprise or any action that has a positive impact on both yourself and other people.
8. If the participant is unsure if their chosen activity meets these criteria, it is strongly encouraged they contact the British Exploring office to discuss this before committing to a project.
9. The British Exploring office will have the final say on any disputes over the validation of volunteering hours.
10. Explorer Miles volunteering hours cannot be backdated to include volunteering which was completed before being accepted onto an expedition with British Exploring.
11. All hours logged after signing up with British Exploring are eligible providing they are logged regularly on the vInspired website. Each volunteering opportunity must be logged within two weeks of completion.

12. When logging hours, participants must follow a format that records the time and date of your volunteering, along with a short description of what was undertaken. This is essential for the British Exploring office to verify hours with the referee.
13. Explorer Miles can only be redeemed by claiming a v10, v30, v50 or v100 badge from vInspired. Details of how to apply for your badges can be found here (<https://vinspired.com/get-awards>).
14. When applying for the award, British Exploring should be marked as the 'Nominated Volunteering Organisation'. This is applicable for v30, v50 and v100 badges. This allows British Exploring to contact the referee and verify the hours before a badge is issued. Failure to follow this step may result in hours not be validated.

n.b v10 badges are automatically approved and do require a 'Nominated Volunteering Organisation'. V10 badges will still require verification from a referee for Explorer Miles to be credited against expedition invoice.

15. Awards should be applied for at the earliest possible opportunity. For example, applying for the v30 award once thirty hours are completed.
16. Explorer Miles will be credited to your expedition invoice upon verification with the volunteer opportunity referee and confirmation of the badge. Incremental hours can only be credited at the end of the payment cycle (usually 31<sup>st</sup> May in the year of your expedition).
17. At present each explorer can earn a maximum of 1000 Explorer Miles (v100 badge).
18. Miles are non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash.
19. In the event of an explorer being unable to participate in an expedition for any reason the Explorer Miles may be transferred to a future expedition at the discretion of the British Exploring office.
20. If a participant withdraws from their expedition he/she will not be able to redeem any cash value for the bursary raised towards their expedition.
21. Any "match funding" raised by the explorer in conjunction with the Explorer Miles programme will be administered by the individual explorer. Once match funding payments have been made to British Exploring they will be treated in the same way as all other receipts (details can be found in your payment schedule attached to the offer pack).