



MORE THAN
GOLD

What it means to be a Games Pastor

Background to the task

What do Games Pastors do?

Games Pastors will be working at transport hubs, near games venues, as a presence on the streets and possibility supporting community events throughout the period of the Games.

Their primary task is to ensure safety and to see that everyone they have contact with receive appropriate assistance and has a positive experience of their time at the venue or location. This could be by giving travel, venue information or other guidance.

They will especially be concerned for those who are vulnerable, providing whatever appropriate assistance and support is necessary, as well as undertaking other appropriate duties as required.

Games Pastors will be a Christian witness during the Games and prayer is an important part of their preparation and activity. Games Pastors should also be able to identify individuals who will need spiritual support during the games.

It is important that all Games Pastors have the spiritual back-up of their own church and home groups.

Will they be dealing with difficult situations?

Games Pastors –

- May sometimes encounter difficult situations but should never endanger themselves or others
- Are not expected to intervene in violent situations and are expected to always seek assistance from the relevant authorities.

Who can become a Games Pastor?

Anyone can apply. There will an interview and assessment throughout the training process. All applicants must be a committed Christian who have the support of their church.

Do they need special skills?

It is not essential to have any specialist skills as a comprehensive training programme is provided. However, if you have a First Aid certificate, or any other skills relevant to the role, please state this on the application form.

More Than Gold's commitment to volunteers

More than Gold aims to provide its Games Pastor volunteers with a worthwhile and fulfilling experience.

Our expectations of volunteers

Games Pastor volunteers are expected to act with professionalism, always treating everyone with respect in a non-judgmental and unconditional manner.

In order to be fully prepared and equipped to be part of the team, More than Gold is investing time and resources into the training and preparation of volunteer Games Pastors.

Under normal circumstances, a Games Pastor will be expected to commit to -

- Attending all training sessions – all are important and mandatory.
- Upholding and respect the aims, objectives and reputation of More Than Gold at all times and not do or say anything that brings More Than Gold or partner organisations into disrepute.
- Respecting the confidentiality and dignity of contacts made during deployment. Personal details of contacts and anyone involved in More Than Gold will be subject to the data protection act.

Person specification

Please approach becoming a volunteer Games Pastor as a voyage of discovery. It requires being part of God's plan for you and, possibly, your family. We therefore prefer 'self selection' to be a major part of this process.

You may find, at some stage during your application, that this role may not be for you. If that is the case, please do not consider that to be failure but as the result of a mature consideration of your God-given skills and abilities.

Serving as a Games Pastor can be challenging physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally challenge. For this reason, all applying are encouraged to prayerfully acknowledge these challenges and apply to the Games Pastor Team only when they are confident they can meet the challenge.

You should be able to demonstrate and provide evidence of the areas identified in the sections that follows. This will be explored with you at the interview stage. It is expected that successful candidates will be able to verbally demonstrate a strong record across a broad range of the criteria in following sections;

Section One (essential)

Christian Faith – Games Pastors are first and foremost disciples of Jesus Christ and need to be disciplined in the practice of regular prayer and worship as well as being sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit. Volunteers must be committed within a local Christian community.

Compassion for people – Games Pastors must be able to easily engage with others. They should have a desire and vocation in assisting and supporting others in public places. They must be willing to identify and appreciate the needs of others.

Team player – Games Pastors must be team players with the ability to listen to others sympathetically and supportively without being condescending. Volunteers will normally work in mixed gender groups and be expected to support and encourage others.

Communication – Games Pastors must be able to listen and seek to understand how to use appropriate behavior and language, tone and volume in all situations. This includes recognising forms of non-verbal communication. You will be expected to be an effective oral communicator, both on an individual basis and in small groups, valuing others contributions.

Games pastors will normally start and finish each shift in group prayer and briefing. At the end of each shift there will also be a group debrief. It is essential to record relevant information as well as your daily efforts in the form of statistics and stories. Ensure that when 'follow up' is required sufficient details are obtained and given to the Team Leader at the end of each shift. Accurate reporting is necessary for purposes of sharing about God's work and for More Than Gold accountability.

Adaptable – Games Pastors will have a willingness to be flexible and be appropriately open-minded, especially in the nature of the support offered according to the needs and situations that arise.

Skill Development – Games Pastor will be willing to develop skills and abilities as to how best to respond to situations and individuals.

Self- awareness –Games Pastors will be able to understand their own emotional responses and be aware of their non-verbal communication traits.

Stamina – Games Pastors will be physically capable and have good mobility whilst performing long duty hours over at least three consecutive day periods.

Section Two (preferable)

It is desirable for Games Pastors to –

1. Be able to recognise and value the contribution of others
2. Have an ability to be innovative and solution focused
3. Be able to work with minimum supervision and a self-starter
4. Be able to serve as an integral part of the team and be willing to travel during unsocial hours including late nights and weekends
5. Have an understanding of the dynamics of a volunteer based organisation that includes some of the factors mentioned in the 'Emotional and Spiritual

More than Gold values diversity, as it is expressed throughout our volunteer and partner programmes. Games Pastors should treat all contacts with unconditional, non-judgmental respect regardless of their age, gender, faith, ethnicity, ability and life choices.

Regardless of your personal challenges and struggles, the needs of those you are supporting and assisting is the primary focus of the Games Pastor Team. You will come with a servant's heart and have a solid foundation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Physical Considerations:

When serving as a Games Pastor -

- You will be physically active for an average of two 4 hour shifts a day, between core times, starting at around 6.00am to possibly 2.00am (*At some venues this will vary depending on the local needs*)
- It *may* be necessary to perform these functions in very hot or inclement weather.
- At times you may be required to assist other organisations/partners, Network Rail, Transport for London, South Eastern Rail etc

- If not being deployed from your home, you could be asked to –
 - Sleep in basic accommodation on temporary beds in close proximity with others of the same gender.
 - Share basic bathroom facilities with other
 - Help with domestic tasks in respect of the accommodation
 - Help in preparing meals which may be basic but nutritional. *(It may not be able to provide for specialist dietary needs so please enquire after your selection so consideration of a suitable venue can be made to accommodate your needs).*

There will be a range of accommodation available to Games Pastors. The range varies in price and full details will be supplied (range £5 to £50 a night)

Emotional and Spiritual Considerations:

You may be required to communicate with those in need of general assistance; they also *may* be distressed, anxious or very agitated. This could have an impact on your emotional and spiritual well-being. You will have an opportunity, at the end of each day's deployment, to discuss any issues with a Team Leader.

You will be expected to demonstrate God's love and compassion with a servant's heart. You will be, at the same time, encouraged to address your own spiritual needs.

During the selection, training and deployment stages you may feel the need to talk through and/or pray about the processes with someone. If so, you are encouraged to talk to your Team Leader or anyone from the Games Pastor Team.

*We pray for God's power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do - 2
Thessalonians 1.11, CEV*

Role description

Reports to:

More Than Gold Games Pastor Team Leader

Role aim:

The primary task of a Games Pastor is to contribute towards the safety of all wherever deployed. Games Pastors will be available to offer appropriate support and assistance, especially to the vulnerable, as well as other appropriate duties as required. By doing this, they will fulfil the ministry and purpose of the 'More than Gold – Games Pastors Team'.

Conditions:

Games Pastors may be deployed to locations close to games venues, transportation hubs, public pedestrian corridor routes or other locations including associated events.

Games Pastors are responsible for their own funding in respect of their application, training, travel, accommodation and meals. Uniform issued may be retained by volunteers after the events.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities:

- a. To ensure that, as a Games Pastor, biblical standards and integrity of conduct are maintained at all times in accordance with the information in this document.
- b. To liaise and provide appropriate support, assistance and spiritual care for all.
- c. To operate at all times under the direction of the More Than Gold Games Pastors Team and other agreed authorities, carrying out all tasks and responsibilities as requested.

Engagement as a Games Pastor is expected to be normally for a minimum of 7 days (one of those as a day off), but we encourage a longer period if you are available.

This is a voluntary position and does not constitute employment, payment of salary or re-imbusement for loss of salary or potential earnings.

January 2012