

Autistic Community Mentor Role Description

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Spectrum Gaming is run by a group of dedicated volunteers and a strong team of trustees who help to ensure we get things right for our community members. While Spectrum Gaming is managed and facilitated by volunteers, we believe that young people's voices are the most important in deciding how services should be delivered and how they should be supported. Therefore, what we do, how we run, and our transformation is driven by members of our community. 35 autistic young people are part of our voluntary staff team, and they fulfil a variety of roles including Server Managers, Event Planning Managers, Server Improvement Team Members and Moderators.

Working with young people has led to the creation of the 3 core values of Spectrum Gaming:

- **Child Centred** – The members of our community should be the people who decide what we do and how it develops.
- **Emulous** – We embrace (and encourage) criticism. We will always be open minded and willing to learn and improve.
- **Quality over quantity** – We will prioritise people who are in our community first, and make sure any changes we make do not compromise the experience of current members of our community.

Our community receives overwhelmingly positive feedback, which is why we continue to improve on what we do and develop. Here is some feedback we have had so far:

<https://padlet.com/info13231/SpectrumGaming>

At the moment, there are:

- Over 200 young people in our under 13 community
- Over 250 young people aged 13-17 in our teenager community
- 300 young people on our Minecraft server
- Over 1400 members of our Facebook group for parents and professionals

And these numbers are continuing to increase due to high demand.

Thank you for your interest in Spectrum Gaming

ABOUT THE ROLE

Position	Autistic Community Mentor
Salary	Voluntary
Responsible to	Creative Director
Employer	Spectrum Gaming

PURPOSE OF THE POST

Autistic mentors are a vital part of Spectrum Gaming's team. We are a small team with many volunteer roles, most working remotely.

We believe being around autistic adults who can act as role models and mentors is extremely important for the wellbeing of autistic young people.

This role is less structured than others, and mainly involves being 'present' in our community. This can mean talking in text channels in our Discord communities, talking on voice chat with young people, or playing games with young people who are looking for gamers or people to talk to. Not only does being around openly autistic adults help young people to become more accepting of autism, but young people find it much easier to connect with others when there is an adult present.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Having a scheduled time to be 'present' in our community.
- Working directly with young people in our Discord servers to ensure their needs are met in a timely way
- Liaising with volunteers, staff and trustees to coordinate support for young people
- Attending training/ staff meetings so we are continually learning how to better support young people in our community
- Being able to support young people if they are struggling to engage or feeling stressed

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential:

- *Full training will be provided, so the main essential criteria is being open to learning and challenging yourself, to support young people in the Spectrum Gaming way. Our views and approach in supporting autistic young people are different to the norm, where autism is seen through the medical model and as something negative*

Desirable

- *Experience in supporting autistic young people (personal or professional experience), or lived experience of autism*
- *Ability to identify new opportunities and partnerships.*
- *Ability to maintain a positive, professional attitude working with a range of people.*
- *A proactive, problem-solving approach to tasks and issues.*
- *Awareness and understanding of neurodiversity in particular autism.*

All Spectrum Gaming staff members are expected to demonstrate:

- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Open commitment to the principles of equal opportunities, diversity and respect.
- Full commitment to empowering and supporting autistic young people and amplifying their voices.
- Ability to plan and prioritise work and fulfil administrative duties.
- Reliability
- Ability to identify and implement innovative solutions to problems.

For more information about this role, please contact info@spectrumgaming.net