



Footsteps
Faiths for a Low Carbon Future



INVITATION TO FREELANCERS

to undertake a SMALL FOOTSTEPS REVIEW

SUMMARY

Small Footsteps is an interfaith environmental programme for young people aged 8 - 12 run by Footsteps. Since 2016, the programme has been run in several iterations, developing from experience each time. Now Footsteps is looking to review its Small Footsteps activities through the eyes of somebody with experience of running similar activities for youngsters in other contexts. We are seeking a freelancer to:

- consult on the current strengths and weaknesses of the programme;
- explore how core values involving faith, Earth care, spirituality and humanism can be incorporated in Small Footsteps activities.
- prepare a report with recommendations for taking the project forward;
- design and facilitate a stakeholder workshop to test and share the results from the review.

Footsteps is offering £1,400 remuneration for this work, the deadline for expressions of interest is 22nd April.

The review is jointly funded by Footsteps and the Saint Peter's Saltley Trust.

FOOTSTEPS BACKGROUND

Footsteps is Birmingham's interfaith climate and environmental action group. Since its formation in 2015 Footsteps has been involved in over 100 events and activities. The main themes running through Footsteps' work are faith and values, Earth care, community, encouragement and working with young people. You can see examples of our work for each theme on the Footsteps website at <https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/themes/>.

SMALL FOOTSTEPS 2016 - 2021

Small Footsteps is an interfaith environmental programme for young people aged 8 - 12 first run by Footsteps in 2016 and 2017. The aim of Small Footsteps 2016 and 2017 programmes was to create young leaders and campaigners for change - building on the way in which faiths have similar teachings about nature and the environment. All young participants learned about ecology, trees, food, water, energy, recycling, climate change and global warming. There is a video made at Small Footsteps 2017 on our website at <https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/2017/09/27/celebrating-small-footsteps/>.

Small Footsteps in 2016 and 2017 were both week-long programmes organised by a small group from Footsteps and each cost c£5,000 to run. Footsteps then decided to offer Small Footsteps on a modular basis as it was beyond Footsteps' capacity to fundraise and run further week-long programmes. With our delivery partners we documented the Small Footsteps 2016 and 17 resources that had been developed and made them available on our website at <https://footstepsbcf.org.uk/small-footsteps/>.

In the summer of 2021 Small Footsteps was offered as modules delivered by partners, and funded by Footsteps using designated funds remaining from Small Footsteps 2017. Footsteps ran two

Small Footsteps sessions with Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust at its EcoPark in Small Heath and another session delivered at Streetly Methodist Church, delivered by Forest Schools.

The following points have emerged from our experience of running Small Footsteps:

1. An organisation or group needs to take **responsibility for safeguarding, carrying out risk assessments and registering** youngsters.
2. A **suitable location** is needed, depending on whether the modules are outdoor or indoor activities.
3. The 'off the shelf' **package of modules with certificates, pledges, Small Footsteps Champion badges and publicity material** is attractive to delivery partners, especially the way in which the package enhances and differentiates a Small Footsteps activity from their own offerings, providing a new way of reaching out to local communities.
4. You need to be able to **recruit the youngsters**. This summer we have been trying to do this mainly by collaborating with places of worship with young people groups.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Small Footsteps review exercise are to:

- Review our Small Footsteps activities through the eyes of somebody with experience of running similar activities for youngsters in other contexts e.g. arts, drama, educational, faith.
- Identify the unique features of the Small Footsteps programme and what, if anything, makes the programme different from other similar activities focused on the natural world and climate for youngsters in the 8-12 age range.
- Explore how core values involving faith, Earth care, spirituality and humanism can be incorporated in Small Footsteps activities in ways that enrich youngsters' experience.
- Develop ways in which Small Footsteps activities are relevant to youngsters from deprived areas of Birmingham.
- Identify the potential for offering a Small Footsteps as a partnership with other organisations, including the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust.
- Make recommendations for taking Small Footsteps forward including identifying the modules that have the greatest potential for enrichment by incorporating 'faith and values' perspectives.
- Design and facilitate in early July an interfaith practitioner workshop for Small Footsteps stakeholders and other interested people to test and share the results from the review exercise. The workshop will be held at the Birmingham & Black Country Small Heath EcoPark in its new building.

WHO IS THE REVIEW FOR?

The review is being commissioned by the Footsteps steering group that will ultimately decide which direction Small Footsteps should take.

The review report should be aimed at the Footsteps steering group and the Small Footsteps' stakeholders and potential partners invited to the July workshop.

WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN

We would expect the freelancer commissioned to bring their own experience and network contacts into the review, but the work should include:

- Reviewing and evaluating Small Footsteps information and resources on the Footsteps website
- Interviewing previous and potential delivery partners - Footsteps will provide introductions to delivery partners who have been involved in delivering Small Footsteps activities and modules.
- Contacting and interviewing people who run activities for youngsters at a range of places of worship to identify how Small Footsteps activities complements and can enhance their own work with young people.
- Writing a report with conclusions and suggestions for the Footsteps steering group and other Small Footsteps stakeholders.
- Preparing and facilitating a Small Footsteps stakeholder workshop in July

You can expect support from Footsteps' steering group members Chris Martin (Footsteps secretary), Toqueer (who has helped at Small Footsteps events), Pete Doubtfire (Peace Hub) and Annie Ahmed (who works with young people at Clifton Road mosque).

TIMESCALE

Our timescale for the work is

- 22 April deadline for expressions of interest from freelancers
- end-April commission freelancer
- May & June freelancer undertakes review
- End June submit report and workshop plans and discuss with Footsteps
- facilitate practitioner workshop early July

REMUNERATION

Footsteps can offer £1,400 for undertaking the review - £1,000 for undertaking the research, consultation and report writing and £400 for the designing and facilitating the stakeholder workshop.

£400 will be paid against invoices on commissioning, £600 on submission of a satisfactory report and £400 on satisfactory delivery of the stakeholder workshop.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in carrying out the review, please send an expression of interest consisting of

- a) one-page A4 outline of how you would approach the work, and the experience and network contacts you would bring
- b) a copy of your CV
- c) a 'job share' applications by two applicants would be considered on its merits.

Please email applications to footstepsbcf@gmail.com by 22 April.

For an informal discussion of Footsteps' requirements, or a clarification of the brief, ring Chris Martin on 475 2088.