

Lorraine Smart joined the India 2008 expedition as a Finance Manager

Working as a financier in Germany for the Ministry of Defence, Lorraine was given the opportunity to take part in Raleigh as part of a personal development scheme sponsored by the MOD.

My key responsibility as well as running Field base finances was being a Project Manager on a community project. A typical day would involve getting up and coordinating the communications check, followed by breakfast and getting the tools out of the store ready to start work. Work began on the building around 9am with a stop for lunch at 1pm. More labouring or bricklaying in the afternoon until 6pm. Team brief at 7pm and then dinner, games of some sort and bed at 9-10pm.

I enjoyed the different finance role and being part of a tribal community as well as being with the venturers. As well as using my coaching skills I have developed my leadership skills which will help me in my working life and enable me to develop my staff.

A challenge was adjusting to the basic living conditions especially using the long drop but I quickly got on with it and ended up enjoying the experience. I have learned to really appreciate things in life that I take for granted.

I would definitely recommend joining Raleigh as a volunteer manager. It's a life changing experience and also great fun. I had a fantastic experience, learned so many new things and met some great people. I now have a much higher appreciation of another culture and life in general.

