

## Volunteer Role Description

### Role: Keeping in Touch Volunteer

As part of our ongoing Community Project this role supports staff with preparation and delivery of one-day programmes working with elderly residential homes, day care centres and dementia groups both on and off site. Depending on the time of year groups either visit Westonbirt, taking part in sensory activities out in the arboretum, or outreach sessions that take tactile, reminiscence activities out to the surrounding community. Both programmes aim to evoke memories, share stories and learn fascinating facts about trees from around the world. The activities incorporate a variety of natural objects, scents, and sounds to connect with the wonder of trees.

Informal meeting date: To be arranged one-to-one

Commencement/training Date: To be arranged one-to-one

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### Typical tasks involved

- Supporting individual participants to enjoy and enhance their experience.
- Helping to set up and close activities.
- Helping to evaluate sessions by documenting anecdotes/feedback of participants.
- Supporting and monitoring health and safety practices.
- Developing resources for activities through preparation and research tasks e.g. medicinal and therapeutic facts about specific trees.
- Occasionally travelling to outreach setting from Westonbirt (or meeting at setting if closer to your home location).

### Essential skills & qualities

- Good communication skills with a patient and friendly approach.
- Enthusiastic and reliable with a positive attitude.
- A willingness to be flexible and help where needed.

### Desirable skills & qualities

- Background in working with older adults.
- Experience working with vulnerable adults i.e. dementia, frail elderly.

### Welfare

You are generally working alongside Forestry Commission staff, and staff are on hand to support you in all aspects of the role. All tools and equipment are provided, with appropriate instruction given. You are not expected to perform any physical care duties e.g. pushing a wheelchair.

A contribution to mileage expenses may be claimed. It is a requirement that volunteers go through an enhanced disclosure.

### Commitment & frequency of activity

Depending on the activity, the commitment on each day could vary between 1-3 hours, anytime between approximately 10am - 4pm. Different programmes are delivered throughout the year; dates and details are advised in advance. Regular involvement is required in order to keep the programme running.

### Training required

On-going training in activity preparation and deliverance plus dementia awareness training workshops when they are available.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-community](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-community)