

Interview Date: 29th February

Training Week: 14th March – 18th March

Role Description

Personal Attributes

Most Volunteer Rangers (VRs) all live in or around the New Forest National Park. Whilst they come from all walks of life, volunteers have one thing in common – a love of the New Forest and the enthusiasm to help in its management and protection.

We are seeking self-motivated, outgoing local people who are able to communicate to a wide and varied audience. You should enjoy meeting and working with people, providing assistance in a polite and constructive manner. While no formal qualifications are required candidates must have a love of the New Forest and an interest in natural history. Any previous experience of volunteering would be advantageous. This role is open to 18 year olds and above; there is no maximum age limit.

We hope that you can support us for an average of 2 days a month as a Volunteer Ranger. Demand for these positions is high and consequently we are looking for commitment to volunteering with the service in the long term. In particular, we need people who are happy and able to be flexible and volunteer on weekends and during holidays. You will need to be able to get to and from duty points. Where private transport is used for business need, mileage will be paid in accordance to our travel and subsistence policies.

Role Description

Volunteer Rangers carry out a host of tasks so diverse that there are many opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge. In spring and summer, Volunteer Rangers can be found attending public events, patrolling the forest in the ranger van to make sure that the public stay safe and enjoy their visit, leading guided walks and manning both the information unit at Bolderwood and the New Forest Reptile Centre. We also support the NPA when they are out and about with their mobile unit.

In autumn and winter our members work closely with The **Two Trees Conservation Team**. Together we carry out a full programme of conservation tasks such as clearing the edges of woodland tracks to improve butterfly habitats and removal of seedling pine regeneration from heathland, to provide a good habitat for birds such as the rare

New Forest Volunteer Ranger

Dartford Warbler.

There are additional opportunities to also:

- Carry out survey work on New Forest streams through the Riverfly Initiative.
- Lead conservation tasks.
- Assist with the public engagement at the New Forest Drifts.
- Help with events including the New Forest Show and our Christmas Tree shops.
- Supporting the rangers at Moors Valley Country Park.

Applying

An application can be downloaded from www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest-volunteering

A paper copy can also be sent out by contacting sue.rogers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or 0300 067 4601.

Application to be completed and returned by **Friday 19th February 2016** to The Queens House, High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire S043 7NH or scanned copies can be emailed to sue.rogers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk