

Grizedale

Forest Art Works Volunteer

Since 1968 England's Public Forest Estate has played host to artworks and initiatives across artforms. We believe that woodlands and forests are vital places for contemporary artists to engage with, to make and present new work. There is great art and architecture in many of our forests. Grizedale Forest, The UK's First Forest for Sculpture, is one of our flagship sites.

Forest Art Works Volunteers will have the exciting opportunity to support the Arts Development team in the delivery of the arts programme at Grizedale Forest and the Visitor Experience team in engaging with visitors through exhibitions, events and sculpture in the forest.

Position Title

Forest Art Works Volunteers

Responsible to

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Arts Development Team, Visitor Experience Team

Key Objective

In this key role you will provide a warm welcome and build positive rapport with visitors, as well as providing information to help them to make their visit a memorable one. By passing on your knowledge and sharing your enthusiasm for art at Grizedale Forest you will contribute to visitors leaving with a passion for art in the forest and ambassadors of Grizedale Forest.

What's in it for you?

1. Meet and work with a fun and diverse team who love art, adventure and wildlife
2. Receive training and the opportunity to learn new skills
3. Skills for continuing education opportunities such as guided walks, meeting artists, field trips and events
4. A great opportunity to learn skills and acquire knowledge to pursue a career within the arts sector.
5. Free refreshments in a dedicated volunteer common room
6. After 35 volunteering hours get a free annual parking pass, which will be renewed annually subject to hours completed and internal reviews
7. A Forestry Commission Volunteer uniform for public facing volunteers

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8. Annual recognition events
9. Long service awards

Key Work Areas:

1. Meet and greet visitors on arrival
2. Help visitors plan their visit by telling them about sculpture trails, exhibitions and events
3. Help with the delivery of onsite events and workshops
4. Provide interpretation to visitors during exhibition periods
5. Promote the important work The Forestry Commission does and in particular how Grizedale improves valuable woodland assets in ways that are good for people, nature and the economy
6. Help with the digitisation of archival materials from sculpture in Grizedale Forest since 1977
7. Provide Guided Walks
8. Get to know the on-site partners enabling you to encourage visitors to sample the café, GoApe, shop, Grizedale Mountain Bikes.
9. Be aware of the needs for all visitors, including family visitors and disabled visitors
10. Feedback and Evaluation about the site as a whole
11. Farewell and encourage visitors to return

Skills and attributes needed:

1. An interest in arts and in particular the visual arts and sculpture
2. An interest in landscape and the wider work of the Forestry Commission
3. Enjoy meeting new people
4. A proactive attitude towards helping visitors understand and enjoy art at Grizedale
5. Helpful nature and enjoy being part of a team
6. A positive attitude, be a good communicator and most importantly have a big friendly smile!
7. Enjoy a variety of roles, be flexible
8. Willing to learn new things
9. For archiving role – computer literate and an interest in history and records

Each volunteer opportunity is different - with its own unique set of responsibilities and therefore requiring its own unique mix of relevant training, skills and experience. Any necessary training will be provided by our friendly staff.

Commit as much or as little time as you wish. It is helpful if you can commit to a regular slot but this could be weekly, monthly etc. The Centre is open 7 days so we would welcome volunteers who can help at weekends as well as mid-week.

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How to apply:

If you are aged sixteen and above and would like to volunteer please complete an application form. An information pack and application form is available from the volunteer co-ordinator. Ways to contact us:

1. Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/grizedale
2. Send an email to volunteer.lakelandforests@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
3. Call 01229862025
4. Drop into the Grizedale Visitor Information for a Volunteer Information Pack

Once we have reviewed your application form, we may invite you for an interview and a background check.

Please note: Volunteer placement is a selective process and not all applicants are accepted. The Forestry Commission reserves the right to place volunteers in an area best suited to the applicant's skills and the needs of Grizedale Forest.

The Visitor Experience Volunteer role is part of a pilot project – this will end in May 2015, however there is a possibility of extension to long term.