

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer guide

Volunteer guides introduce visitors to the special qualities of the arboretum by sharing their passion for this world famous collection of trees, and are key in promoting the value of the arboretum as an internationally important scientific resource, learning destination, and a place to enjoy. This role is an opportunity to learn about the arboretum's heritage and historical context, its scientific significance and how this Grade 1 listed landscape is managed and cared for today.

When

Different types of walks run throughout the year March-October; walks last about 1½ hours. We ask for 1-2 walks per month, this may rise during autumn colour.

What's involved?

- ✧ Leading parties of visitors safely around the arboretum.
- ✧ Providing visitors with a thought provoking walk focussing on our key messages.
- ✧ Tailoring the walk to suit the specific preferences and needs of different people.
- ✧ Answering visitor questions or advising where they may obtain the information.
- ✧ Promoting Westonbirt and its events; promoting the Friends' Charity and membership.

We'd like you to be

Confident in engaging and communicating with all kinds of visitors, able to speak effectively to groups of people, whilst being reliable, positive, patient, and keen to share your enthusiasm for the arboretum with others. Good attention to detail, an interest in trees, and a willingness to learn and promote our key messages are also important.

We will

- ✧ Provide you with full training from 10am-3pm on the following days: Saturday 14 & 28 January; Saturday 11 & 28 February; and Saturday 11 March; followed by a period of 'shadowing' experienced guides; we would hope training to be completed by May/June 2017.
- ✧ Advise terrain may be uneven, rough or muddy and you will be walking on and off mainly level paths in ALL weathers, therefore sturdy boots/shoes are needed.
- ✧ Provide you with an on-site radio for communication.
- ✧ Invite you to team meetings held four times per year which include on-going training.
- ✧ Provide access to Westonbirt's library and archive resources for further research.
- ✧ Pay a contribution to the cost of volunteering travel.

Please send your application to us

By **Saturday 31 December 2016** via email to cheryl.pearson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Cheryl Pearson, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury GL8 8QS

Recruitment coffee morning Saturday 19 November at 10.30am

To find out more come along to the volunteer recruitment coffee morning in the Great Oak Hall starting at 10.30am, where we'll give you a brief presentation about volunteering at Westonbirt followed by a cuppa and piece of cake whilst you chat to staff and volunteers about our current opportunities.

Following the coffee morning, those interested in guiding may join a walk of the Old Arboretum with further opportunities to ask questions about the role.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering