

Volunteer Role Description

Learning volunteer

The Learning Team engages with visitors of all ages, delivering informal hands-on learning activities during family events and community visits as well as formal learning experience with schools and colleges. Learning volunteers engage with families and students helping them to explore and discover more about trees, the arboretum and the natural world.

When

Family events usually take place Monday-Friday during most school holidays and volunteers are asked to sign-up for at least six sessions per year either all day 10.30am-4.30pm or afternoons 12.30pm-4.30pm. Volunteers also support school groups throughout April-November from 9.30am-2.30pm. In addition resource activity mornings usually take place on the last Friday of each month from 9.30am-12.30pm.

What's involved?

- ✧ Engaging with visitors of all ages at our family events, inviting them to follow our activity trails and take part in crafts and discovery challenges.
- ✧ Supporting learning officers with school visits out in the collection, encouraging children to explore and get involved with the programme activities.
- ✧ Being part of a team, planning and developing ideas for family events and learning centre activities; researching and writing activities can be carried out at home or at the arboretum.
- ✧ Creating resources, making craft examples, checking family trails, and learning centre maintenance.

We'd like you to be

Experienced in engaging with families, children or adult groups, able to communicate with all kinds of visitors, whilst being reliable, positive, patient, and keen to share your enthusiasm for the arboretum with others. Good attention to detail, an interest in trees, natural history and a willingness to learn are also important.

We will

- ✧ Provide two training sessions covering induction, learning theory, engaging with the public, and the learning programme for the year ahead.
- ✧ Partner you with a current volunteer for the first school visit or family event.
- ✧ Provide all materials needed.
- ✧ Ensure you are with another volunteer when out in the arboretum.
- ✧ Make you aware there may be periods of standing and that the activity may take place away from central facilities for up to 1.5 hours.
- ✧ Pay a contribution to the cost of volunteering travel.
- ✧ Help you to complete the required Disclosure and Barring System checks (DBS).

Please send your application to us

By 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.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering