

Volunteer Role Description

Role: Discovery Volunteer

The Learning Team works with visitors of all ages, delivering informal hands-on learning activities during family events, community visits and adult learning workshops. This volunteer role provides an opportunity to engage with visitors specifically to help them to explore and discover more about trees and the arboretum, and to make personal connections with trees, through open-ended discovery activities.

Application closing date: On-going

Initial meeting date: To be arranged one to one

Commencement/training date: To be confirmed

Typical tasks involved

- Engage with visitors of all ages, inviting them to take part in discovery activities.
- Lead discovery activities, asking questions that encourage visitors to explore trees.
- Using microscopes, help visitors to make close observations.
- Facilitate visitors to lead their own learning and discovery through activities, offering support and guidance as necessary.
- Create themed discovery challenges linked to family events programme and seasonal highlights.
- Evaluate discovery challenges to inform future activities.

Essential skills & qualities

Experience in engaging with children, families or adult groups and the ability to actively listen to visitors and adapt activities accordingly. Good attention to detail and a willingness to learn is required.

Desirable skills & qualities

An interest in trees, natural history and Westonbirt's tree collection.

Welfare

All materials and equipment are provided with appropriate instruction given. Volunteers are in pairs at the learning centre or out in the arboretum. Due to the nature of the role all Discovery Volunteers will go through an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS).

Please be aware there may be periods of standing and the activity may take place away from central facilities for up to 1.5 hours.

A contribution to mileage expenses may be claimed.

Commitment & frequency of activity

- An initial 6-month period is required with a minimum of 6 days. The activity takes place on the last Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of the month during April-October.
- We are looking for delivery of discovery sessions each day from 2.30pm-3.30pm to include a collecting walk before lunch.

Training required

Two days training is needed to cover induction, learning theory, engaging with the public, and the discovery challenge programme, followed by mentored programme delivery.

Open morning Saturday 3 October 2015

To find out more come along to the volunteer open morning Saturday 3 October in the Great Oak Hall. Drop in any time from 10am-1pm to chat to staff and volunteers about this role.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering