

Role: Wild Westonbirt Volunteer

Aim: To support community staff with the development and delivery of a range of activities aimed at enabling young people to engage with the arboretum. The project works with young people from a variety of backgrounds and organisations, including uniformed groups e.g. girl guides; youth clubs and formal education establishments. We also run projects that individual young people can join, such as Team WB, (the Westonbirt Youth Forum) and Wild Westonbirt, a bush craft and conservation club for young people.

Activities may include practical woodland management skills, basic bush craft such as den building and fire lighting, team work and problem solving challenges, and creative arts or crafts. There will also be an opportunity to support the development and delivery of Team WB and Wild Westonbirt.

Informal meeting date: To be arranged one to one.

Commencement date: To be arranged one to one.

Typical tasks involved:

- Helping with the set up and closing of activities.
- Supporting individual participants to enjoy and enhance their experience at the arboretum.
- Recognising achievement and personal development of participants to contribute towards the evaluation of the programme and the informal education of the participant.
- Positive role models of appropriate equipment use and behaviour, supporting/monitoring health & safety.
- Occasionally helping with administrative tasks that support that project (optional).

Essential skills & qualities

- Good communication skills with a patient and friendly approach.
- Enthusiastic and reliable with a positive attitude, and willing to be flexible and help where needed.
- Ability to remain calm and have an open mind when working with individuals from all walks of life.

Desirable skills & qualities

- Experience of youth participation projects or working with young people in an informal setting.
- Experience in bushcraft skills/woodland management.

Welfare

All tools, equipment, and where needed personal protective equipment are provided, with appropriate instruction given – volunteers do not use chainsaws. You will need to supply your own sturdy boots, however, there are wellingtons available to borrow on the day. A contribution to mileage expenses may be claimed. Volunteers go through disclosure (similar to CRB) due to working with young/vulnerable groups. Staff are on hand to support you in all aspects of this role. Practical conservation tasks take place through the year.

Please be aware that large parts of this role will involve working outdoors in the arboretum away from the main site facilities.

Commitment & frequency of activity

This is a 4 year, externally funded project that will be reviewed at the end of 2017. Times will vary dependent on the activity delivered and usually lasts a full or half day (may include evening/weekend sessions). A rota is available and we'd like volunteers to attend one session per month, this may vary as required.

Training required

Training is provided to cover health & safety, welfare of young people, informal education and community youth programme and activity delivery, plus ongoing training in activity preparation and delivery.

Minimum age

As this role works with, and supports young people, the minimum age for volunteers is 18 years.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt