

Volunteer Shadow Ranger

Community role

National Forest

Country	England
Location	Hicks Lodge , Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Swadlincote Postcode: LE65 2UP
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	9 th of August 2021

Background Information

Forestry England are the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

The Central Forest District has responsibility for the management of some 30,000ha of the Nation's Forests within a triangle formed by Liverpool, Hull and Milton Keynes. This gives rise to a large diversity of users, customers, neighbours and pressures, all of which are interacting on a varied backdrop of land uses.

The district has three Community Woodland areas, in Nottinghamshire, The National Forest and the North West covering Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire.

Community Woodlands are a key element of the land holding the Forestry Commission manages, providing woodland sites for local communities to enjoy, for nature to thrive and timber to grow. The Community Woodlands vary in size and facilities and are managed by small, dedicated, and motivated teams.

We are proud to be able to offer a shadow ranger volunteer opportunity for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in conservation, community

Volunteer Shadow Rangers

engagement, recreation, site management, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing current community ranger staff. They will shadow staff and develop on the job skills, including development of practical site management, working within communities, volunteer management, engaging and working with the public, schools and colleges. The National Forest Shadow Ranger role enables individuals to gain experience of managing our recently restored Community Woodlands and surrounding mature woodlands.

What we offer

Training relevant to the role from the experienced member of staff you are shadowing along with gaining knowledge from wider colleagues.

Guidance and support in applying for further training or employment opportunities.

Genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.

Volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.

Volunteer uniform.

Formal training opportunities - first aid and manual handling

Purpose

Experience, encourage and support active community and volunteer involvement on countryside sites within the National Forest area, through outdoor work, engagement and management of community interest groups and public expectation. Learn how to involve local people in the decision making and management of their local environment.

Working as part of the Recreation team assist, with the safe management of recreation facilities in the national forest, support community engagement and community involvement in the woodlands. Assist and provide support to a diverse range of people, experiencing a range of tasks, activities and procedures that rangers undertake within their role.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

Volunteer Shadow Rangers

An interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, or recreation.

Desirable

Experience of practical conservation, environmental education, working with young people or environmental management; through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in the environmental sector; countryside ranger, environmental or visitor services management.

Work with Other People

Essential

Be approachable, open, polite, and helpful to others.

Respect diverse backgrounds, views, and approaches.

Willingness to work as part of a team as well as the ability to work on your own.

Desirable

Willingness and enthusiastic to lead groups and activities.

Communication

Essential

Ability to listen and communicate with people from a variety of age groups, abilities, behaviours, and backgrounds.

Ability to deal with difficult situations with tact, diplomacy and in a constructive manner.

Deliver Results

Essential

Motivated and capable of working under own initiative.

Prioritise and organise your time and resources effectively to meet agreed deadlines and objectives.

Volunteer Shadow Rangers

Desirable

Understand and apply current legislation, rules, and procedures relevant to the job (e.g., Health & Safety, Risk assessment).

Learn and Apply

Essential

Listen to and observe your mentor and rest of the team, demonstrate willing to learn and repeat tasks to build experience.

Be open to change and show a willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop new skills and confidence.

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes and constructive feedback.

Other

Able and willing to work 1-3 days per week, predominantly weekdays although may occasionally include evenings and weekend working.

This post may require you to hold and continue to hold, a full current driving licence. Duties will require you to be fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. However, Forestry England is willing to consider any proposal put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the role by other means. This role will require a DBS check.

How to apply

To apply for this Shadow Ranger opportunity please complete the online [Shadow Ranger application form](#) . **Answer the questions on the form and** explain how your skills, interests and experiences meet all the areas outlined in this Person Specification. Please use **examples** where appropriate, without detail we cannot see how you meet the role specification.

Specify you are applying for ***Community - National Forest***

If you are unable to use our online application or need an alternative application method please email centraldistrictvol@forestryengland.uk and state which opportunity you wish to apply for and what your requirements are to enable you to apply.

Volunteer Shadow Rangers

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