

## Volunteer Role Description

### Discovery volunteer

The Learning Team engages with visitors of all ages, delivering informal hands-on learning activities during family events, community visits and adult learning workshops. Discovery volunteers help visitors to explore and discover more about trees and the arboretum, and to make personal connections with trees, through open-ended discovery activities.

#### When

Discovery activities currently take place on the last Saturday and Sunday of the month during April-October. Sessions run from 1-4pm with a collecting walk before lunch. As a minimum commitment to this role we ask that you undertake at least 6 discovery sessions a year.

#### What's involved?

- ✧ Engaging with all age groups, inviting them to take part in discovery activities.
- ✧ Leading discovery activities, asking questions that encourage visitors to explore trees.
- ✧ Using microscopes, helping visitors to make close observations.
- ✧ Helping people to lead their own learning and discovery through activities.
- ✧ Creating themed discovery challenges linked to the family events programme and seasonal highlights.
- ✧ Evaluating discovery challenges to inform future activities.

#### We'd like you to be

Experienced in engaging with families, children or adult groups, be able to communicate with all kinds of visitors and adapt activities accordingly, 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 discovery challenge programme, followed by mentored programme delivery.
- ✧ Provide all materials needed.
- ✧ Ensure you are with another volunteer either at the Learning Centre or out in the arboretum.
- ✧ Advise you there may be periods of standing and that the activity may take place away from central facilities for up to 3 hours.
- ✧ Pay a contribution to the cost of volunteering travel.
- ✧ Help you to complete the required Disclosure and Barring System checks (an enhanced DBS is required for this role).

#### Please send your application to us

By email to [alice.chadwick@forestryengland.uk](mailto:alice.chadwick@forestryengland.uk) or by post to Alice Chadwick, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury GL8 8QS

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum/volunteering-westonbirt-the-national-arboretum>

