



Shadow Volunteer

Recreation Ranger

Hicks Lodge

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	10th July 2022

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 7 Forest Centres in Cheshire, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and the National Forest. Forest Centres attract most of our visitors and have a host of facilities to provide safe, welcoming areas for people to enjoy and support our commercial aims to help nature to thrive. timber to grow. Our Forest Centre's vary in size and facilities and are managed by small, dedicated, and motivated teams.

We are proud to be able to offer a shadow volunteer opportunity for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in conservation, community engagement, recreation, site management, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

Shadow Volunteer

The Role

This role will be based in the National Forest area shadowing Recreation staff at Hicks Lodge Forest Centre. The role will provide an opportunity for you to learn about and participate in visitor services and recreation, volunteer work parties and volunteer supervision.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing the current team. They will shadow staff and develop on the job skills including management of visitor facilities, public engagement, volunteer management and practical site management. The role at Hicks Lodge enables individuals to gain experience of our busy Forest Centres and the work required to maintain our facilities to a high standard, ensuring they remain safe for the public to use all year round.

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 such as first aid, risk assessment and manual handling.

Purpose

Working as part of the Recreation team, assisting with the safe management of recreation facilities in Hicks Lodge, supporting 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

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An interest in welcoming visitors to enjoy the outdoors, practical maintenance and managing volunteers.

Desirable

Experience of customer service, visitor engagement, working with volunteers or practical management through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in outdoor visitor experience, countryside ranger, volunteer co-ordinator or environmental education.

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.

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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 at weekends** when Hick Lodge is at its busiest. If you would like to gain experience supporting volunteers our regular volunteer group is on Tuesday mornings, but there may be other opportunities at times. This position is not available on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

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 mean. This role will require a DBS check.

How to apply

To apply for this Shadow Volunteer opportunity please complete the online [Shadow Volunteer 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 ***Recreation - Hicks Lodge***

Shadow Volunteer

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

Key dates

Application closing date: 10th July 2022

Interviews from 15th of August 2022

Induction 5th of September 2022