
Volunteer Role Description

Learning Volunteer - Overview

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum is cared for by Forestry England. As well as ensuring Westonbirt's long-term future, its mission is to connect people with trees to improve the quality of life. Volunteering plays a fundamental part supporting this mission, providing essential help in maintaining the arboretum and making visitors feel welcome. Learning volunteers support the Learning Team to engage with visitors of all ages, delivering informal hands-on learning activities during family events as well as formal learning experiences with schools and colleges.

When

A minimum of 35 hours over the year with at least 6 shifts at the weekend or school holidays.

What's Involved

- Family events - engaging with families, helping them to explore and discover more about trees, the arboretum and the natural world.
- Morning, afternoon and all-day shift options, with weekend and mid-week shifts to suit your availability
- School visits - we are looking for volunteers who are particularly interested in supporting secondary school visits as well as primary schools, helping all students to take part in the activities
- Work mornings - Once a month, usually on a Friday, miscellaneous tasks to prepare for events, school programmes, maintenance and sharing ideas

We'd like you to be...

- Welcoming to all participants, of all ages, learning styles and needs
- Comfortable and confident to approach visitors to invite them to take part
- Experienced in engaging and talking with children

We will...

- Provide training sessions covering induction, learning theory, engaging with the public, and the learning programme for the year ahead.
- Partner you with a current volunteer to support you in your role.
- Provide all materials needed.
- Ensure you are with another volunteer when out in the arboretum.
- Make you aware there may be periods of standing and that the activity may take place away from central facilities for up to 1.5 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) and provide safeguarding training.