

## Volunteer Role Description

### Family events volunteer

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum is cared for by the Forestry Commission, the government agency responsible for managing Great Britain's public forest estate. 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.

The Learning Team engages with visitors of all ages, delivering informal hands-on learning activities during family events and community visits as well as formal learning experiences with schools and colleges. Family event volunteers particularly support our family events, engaging with families, helping them to explore and discover more about trees, the arboretum and the natural world.

#### When

Family events usually take place Monday-Friday during most school holidays and volunteers are asked to sign-up for at least ten sessions per year either all day 10.30am-4.30pm, mornings from 10.30am-1.30pm or afternoons 12.30pm-4.30pm. In addition, family events form part of the Enchanted Christmas evenings during December. There will also be four weekend family events taking place throughout 2019.

#### What's involved?

- ✧ Engaging with visitors of all ages at our family events, inviting them to follow our activity trails and take part in crafts and discovery challenges.
- ✧ Being part of a team, planning and developing ideas for family events and learning centre activities; researching and writing activities can be carried out at home or at the arboretum.
- ✧ There could also be the opportunity to get involved with other activities in the learning team such as supporting leaning officers with school visits, creating resources, making craft examples, checking family trails, and learning centre maintenance.

#### We'd like you to be

Experienced in engaging with families, children or adult groups, able to communicate with all kinds of visitors, 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 learning programme for the year ahead.
- ✧ Partner you with a current volunteer for the first family event.
- ✧ 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).

#### 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>