

Shadow Volunteer

Role Name: Recreation Shadow Volunteer

Forest: Cannock Chase Forest

Country	England
Location	Cannock Chase Forest, Birches Valley, Rugeley, WS15 2UQ
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	9 th July 2023

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.

Cannock Chase Forest (CCF) covers 2684 hectares of coniferous and broadleaf woodlands and open land in Staffordshire in the West Midlands, between the towns of Stafford to the northwest, Cannock to the south and Rugeley to the east - Birmingham city centre is 20 miles to the south.

Most of the forest is freehold as part of the public forest estate and is designated as Open Access land. Much of the woodland in the west and north eastern corner of the plan area is leased to the Forestry Commission however, and access in these areas is restricted to Public Rights of Way.

The area lies within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the majority of Forestry England land is made up of conifers planted for timber production. There are also areas of ancient woodland, wetland, wood pasture and open heathland within the forest. Adjacent lowland heath is internationally important and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

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There are many archaeological features within the AONB and the forest has a long history of hunting, grazing and mining. Evidence of more recent military training includes a first world war model trench system at Brocton, which is a Scheduled Monument.

Cannock Chase Forest welcomes around 400,000 - 500,000 visitors to the forest each year and provides a wide range of outdoor activities. CCF has a range of recreation offers for families and individuals including play, Go-Ape and a network of cycle trails. Cycle trails range from Easy Green trails to Intermediate Blue and Difficult Reds.

We are looking for an individual to join the Recreation team to support trail management, visitor Services and the wider recreation team.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing the Recreation team at Cannock Chase Forest. They will develop on the job skills; including development of customer service, learning techniques, leading and working with groups and planning and running events, practical site management and working/leading volunteers.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from your 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, risk assessments, and manual handling.

Purpose

Working as part of the team to maintain the Forestry England network of trails for visitors to enjoy. Supporting the Recreation Rangers and visitor services team to provide outstanding customer experiences at Cannock Chase Forest. Within the team you will have opportunities to; welcome visitors, support and supervise volunteer groups, and maintain the forest centre by completing facility inspections and carrying out associated maintenance, ensuring a safe visit for all.

This role would suit someone seeking a career in the environmental sector; trail maintenance, visitor services, countryside ranger, community work.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

Interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, recreation, or customer service in an outdoor setting.

Desirable

Experience or interest in environmental or outdoor work, customer service working with volunteers, practical site management, delivering sessions to a variety of groups; through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Working 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

Experience of working with people from a wide range of social backgrounds.

Willingness and enthusiasm to greet groups and help customers.

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.

Desirable

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

Learn and Apply

Essential

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.

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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

Please apply online by completing the [application form](#) on the website. Make sure when applying, you type 'Recreation Shadow Volunteer' as the role which you are interested in. For the Forest, please select 'Cannock Chase Forest Centre'.

If you are interested in multiple roles, you will need to complete multiple applications. You can, however, use the same information and answers for each so feel free to copy the information from one to the other, if you are happy this is correct.

If you have any problems with the application or questions 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.

If you consider yourself to have a disability the application form will ask you to provide details of any support you may need or reasonable adjustments we can make to enable you to fulfil the role (as outlined in the role description for the placement you are interested in). If you are selected for a Shadow Volunteer role based on your skills and experience this will allow us to assess whether support can be safely and practically put in place or whether other alternative solutions are a possibility, in discussion with you.

Closing date: 9th July 2023