



## Wednesday Wild Crew

### Bedgebury National Pinetum

#### About Us

Forestry England is a part of the government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is tasked with the sustainable management of the Public Forest Estate for timber, recreation and wildlife.

Bedgebury National Pinetum is home to a world-leading collection of conifers. It is unique in the UK and of global significance for the purposes of species conservation, scientific advancement and the understanding of conifers.

#### Role Description

Our WWC volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings and work to maintain the visitor centre ornamental beds from March through to October. This volunteer role provides an opportunity to learn new skills; trial different techniques and take pride in keeping the beds a beautiful showcase for the rest of the collection.

In addition, during the winter months (November to February) you will be asked to work in other areas of the pinetum, carrying out tree and ground maintenance to an agreed standard and according to the pinetum landscape plan.

You will be guided by the pinetum tree team and led by the volunteer coordinator.

#### When?

- Every Wednesday 09.30 - 12.30
- A minimum of 4 volunteers are required for the session to go ahead

#### What's involved?

Volunteers meet with the volunteer coordinator every Wednesday at a prearranged location. You will be briefed with the task before starting and allocated tools. On occasion you will be joined by member of the tree team for specific guidance on pruning, planting or general bed maintenance and advice. The volunteer coordinator will organise bringing tools to the site in the morning and taking them back for cleaning and storage at the end of the session.

## Typical tasks include:

- Weeding around specimen shrubs and plants
- Applying mulch
- Drainage maintenance
- Pruning
- Planting
- Maintenance of tree cages
- Tree label checking and periodical auditing of trees

Volunteers will not operate power tools or drive vehicles on site

## We'd like you to

- Enjoy working outside and take pride in your tasks
- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people (visitors may be inquisitive)
- Be willing to follow guidelines set including health and safety
- Attend relevant training courses and be willing to learn from specialist partners and staff
- Arrange for your own refreshments and lunch for the day and ensure food and drink is not shared whilst Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

## We will provide

- A volunteer registration prior to taking up the role (not applicable to existing volunteers)
- A volunteer induction (not applicable to existing volunteers)
- Full training and support
- Appropriate tools, equipment, guidance, cleaning regime and supervision for the tasks
- Appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety boots, gloves, glasses, hand sanitiser etc.
- Free parking on your volunteer day
- A free cup of tea or coffee from the café on your volunteer day
- A volunteer's membership for free admission to Bedgebury Pinetum throughout the year after 35 hours of regular volunteering (reviewed annually)
- A volunteers' newsletter
- An invitation to annual events such as the 'Thank you' BBQ and other volunteer events

## Who to contact?

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please contact register your interest via our website [www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering-bedgebury](http://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering-bedgebury) or email [bedgebury@forestryengland.uk](mailto:bedgebury@forestryengland.uk)

For more information about volunteering at different Forestry England sites please visit our website [www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering](http://www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering)

## Covid-19

Please note that the most important thing is for Forestry England to keep the public, our staff and volunteers safe. We will be following government guidelines with regards to Covid-19 restrictions and will be asking you to agree to do the same when taking up any volunteering position with us. Forestry England reserves the right to halt volunteering at any time.