



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Reserve Engagers – Guide in the Hide

Why do we need you?

Our hides offer a great opportunity for anyone of any ability to enjoy wildlife. Guides in the Hides provide a warm, friendly welcome to our visitors of all ages, pointing out birds of interest, providing identification tips and assisting both children and adults to use optical equipment and bird identification guide books.

At WWT we believe that the best way for people to understand and connect to wetlands is to experience them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking. At Slimbridge Wetland Centre visitors can explore unique wetland habitats and the amazing array of birds, mammals and amphibians that inhabit them. Our volunteers help to welcome and inspire visitors, and look after our unique habitats and heritage.

Who will be responsible for your role? Reserve Warden

Where will you be based? WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

How much time will it take? You can pick from a full-day (9.15am until 4pm) or half-day (9.15am-1pm or 1-4pm) volunteer session. A minimum commitment of once a fortnight is preferred.

What will you be doing?

- Attending morning briefings with both Reserve and Visitor Services Teams to ensure you have up to date knowledge for the day
- Welcoming visitors to the hides and talking to visitors about what they can see from hide windows and assisting them with identification
- Using binoculars to showcase species of interest
- Volunteering mainly in our South Lake Discovery Hide and the new Estuary Tower Hide (opens Autumn 2019)
- Keeping up to date with happenings at the centre and directing visitors to other talks, events and activities that may be of interest on their visit
- Maintaining the hides (basic housekeeping-tidying chairs, cleaning, collecting litter, organising materials and learning tools)
- There may also be opportunities to help out at events or to assist with Wild Safaris (commentated 4x4 summer safaris). Additional training provided.

Who are we looking for?

This role will suit you if you:

- Are confident and pro-active in approaching people
- Have a good, basic bird knowledge, although additional support and training can be provided
- Are able to work on your own or as part of a team
- Have some experience of using binoculars and telescopes
- Have an interest in the natural environment
- Have an enthusiastic and friendly manner
- Are committed to excellent customer service

How will you benefit?

- Volunteer in an inspiring environment and get closer to nature
- Great way to learn new skills
- Make a real contribution to the conservation work of WWT
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
- WWT uniform provided
- Induction and training provided
- Become part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meet like-minded people
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes

General notes:

Getting to the Centre: Road: Slimbridge Wetland Centre is 2 miles off the A38. There is a large car park with ample car parking spaces and there is a bike rack available for staff volunteers. Rail: Cam & Dursley rail station is a 3.5 mile cycle or taxi ride away. Bus: Unfortunately there is no bus service directly to Slimbridge: the nearest services stop is at the A38, 2 miles walk from the Centre. New for 2019: we are trialling a free minibus service for volunteers to/from the nearest train station and bus stops. Please ask your line manager if you would like to access this service.

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred in travelling to and from the centre, but any pre-agreed expenses incurred in the course of your duties will be reimbursed.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

How to Apply:

Full details of this role and an online application form can be found at www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer . If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email volunteer.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk

Date reviewed: December 2018