



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Animal Presentations Placement**

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### **Why do we need you?**

At WWT, we create and conserve wetlands and save species. We bring awe-inspiring nature up close and let it do the talking. In this role you will be assisting the presentations team in all aspects of caring for animals within our amphibian, mammal and Living Wetland Theatre departments; it is a rare opportunity to gain experience across a wide range of animal species. This role would be an ideal placement for someone who has recently completed an animal-based qualification and is looking to develop their practical skill set in preparation for a career in the zoo industry.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Deputy Living Collections Manager for Animal Presentations

**Where will you be based?** WWT Slimbridge Centre

**How much time will it take?** We are looking for a placement volunteer for 5 days per week for a minimum of 8 months and up to one year.

### **What will you be doing?**

- Assisting with the daily cleaning, feeding and monitoring of a wide range of amphibian species within our Toad Hall exhibits
- Assisting with the daily cleaning and feeding of all animals within our mammal section
- Assisting with the daily cleaning and feeding of theatre birds
- Maintenance of exhibits and surrounding areas
- Assisting the Living Wetland Theatre team in daily training protocols
- Assisting during free flight sessions, including retrieval of birds where necessary
- Assisting with and ultimately giving talks to the public both in Toad Hall and our North American river otter exhibit
- Interacting with public around exhibits
- Completion of a portfolio evidencing all the skills and experience gathered during your placement time
- Completion of a project of your choice within any one of the three sections (mammals, amphibians, display birds)
- Preparing to give an end of placement presentation to Slimbridge Centre staff about your placement project

## Who are we looking for?

To be effective in this role you will need:

- To be a team player with the ability to work under your own initiative.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Experience in animal management and/or animal training would be useful.
- A basic understanding of animal behaviour.
- Good communication and presentation skills.

## How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a hands-on role.
- A completed portfolio detailing all the transferable skills you will acquire during your placement
- Suitable uniform is provided to all regular volunteers.
- Discount is available in the cafe and shop on the days of volunteering.
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres on presentation of your WWT name badge.
- Accommodation in our local volunteer hostel.
- Appropriate training will be provided.
- A review after the first month to ensure the role is right for you.
- A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs.

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## General notes:

This position may require you to volunteer during weekends and public holidays to ensure objectives are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement.

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. Any pre-agreed out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of the role 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:

Please go to [www.wwt.org.uk/join-and-support/volunteering/volunteer-placements/](http://www.wwt.org.uk/join-and-support/volunteering/volunteer-placements/) for full details of this role and an application form. If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email [Volunteering@wwt.org.uk](mailto:Volunteering@wwt.org.uk).

## Closing Date:

Please return all completed application forms by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019**. After this date successful applicants will be asked to come to the WWT Slimbridge for an informal interview to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which suitable candidates will be offered placements.