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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Canoe Safari Support**

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

On the canoe safari, visitors can take to the water to see the wetlands and wildlife from a new perspective. You will assist our canoe safari team by greeting our visitors, assisting with the day-to-day operations, and by helping our visitors enjoy a memorable experience every time they visit.

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.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Assistant Grounds Manager

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

**How much time will it take?** The canoe safari is open from May – September from 11am – 4pm. Canoe Safari Volunteers can offer a few hours or volunteer all day, and a commitment of once a week is preferred.

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

- Greeting visitors, explaining how the canoe safari works and sharing seasonal highlights about the wildlife and wetland habitat of the canoe trail
- Supporting the canoe safari operator in the preparation, hiring, cleaning and clearing away of canoes and associated equipment
- Ensuring the canoes are safe to use and that all canoes and accessories are checked between each use, cleaned and kept in good working order
- Assisting with providing instruction and advice to visitors on using the canoe safely and ensuring buoyancy aids are provided and fitted correctly. Ensuring health & safety instructions and standards are strictly adhered to
- Reporting any damage or repairs to the canoe safari operator
- Assisting with taking payment for the hire of the canoes and buoyancy aids. Ensuring accurate financial records are kept for all hires
- Supporting with the maintenance of the canoe trail habitat and the grounds around the canoe safari through cleaning, horticulture and clearance work.

## Who are we looking for?

Please note that due to the levels of responsibility and insurance arrangements volunteers in this role must be over 18 years of age.

To carry out this role, you will need:

- Experience of working with customers, and a friendly, enthusiastic manner.
- An interest in and enthusiasm for the work of WWT
- A moderate level of fitness
- An understanding of the safe operation of canoes (additional training on this will be provided)
- An ability to use initiative, take responsibility and seek help from staff when necessary, when responding to the visitors and their enquiries
- An interest in hands-on conservation and a desire to develop practical experience

## 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
- Great way to get outdoors and do some physical activity
- Meet other people and work in a friendly and dedicated team
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes
- WWT uniform provided
- Travel expenses available to those in full-time education or who are currently unemployed (speak to your volunteer manager for more information on this scheme)
- Induction and training provided

## General notes:

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 2021: If you're in full-time education, or are currently unemployed, we can help with your travel costs to and from the centre. Please speak to your volunteer manager for more information on this scheme. Unfortunately we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred in travelling to and from the centre for anyone not meeting either of these criteria 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:

Join an online open day in spring 2021 by visiting [www.wwt.org.uk/getinvolved](http://www.wwt.org.uk/getinvolved). Or alternatively full details of this and other roles can be found at [www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer](http://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](mailto:volunteer.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk)

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