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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Family Engagement Volunteer**

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

As part of our Learning & Engagement team you will help deliver engaging nature based activities for families and groups visiting during weekends and school holidays.

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?** Learning & Engagement Manager

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

**How much time will it take?** Volunteer sessions are a minimum of 4 hours, and are likely to be at weekends and during school holidays.

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

- Assist in delivering themed activities and/or workshops for families during event weekends and school holidays
- Supervise afternoon pond dipping sessions during the summer holidays
- Helping to prepare and supervise art and craft activities within our new Create & Connect hub (opening 2021)
- Helping to deliver families sessions in our new Living Wetland Theatre (opening Summer 2021)
- Deliver Really Wild Birthday party activities as and when booked during weekends or school holidays. Summer/Spring party activities include pond dipping and feeding the birds amongst others. Autumn/Winter activities include nature explorer activities such as using binoculars in the South Lake Discovery hide and recording your finds on a spotter sheet, feeding the birds and using sound guns around Swan Lake
- Answering visitor queries about family activities and the wider Centre

### **Who are we looking for?**

Previous experience in running similar events is desirable but not essential. We are looking for keen and enthusiastic people who enjoy working with families and children. In order to carry out this role, you will need:

- Enjoy working with families and children

- Have good communication skills and an outgoing personality
- Have a willingness to talk to visitors both on a one-to-one level and to larger groups
- Are interested in education related activities and the natural environment
- Have previous experience of delivering family events (although not essential)
- Have excellent customer service skills
- Are happy volunteering on your own initiative under the direction of the Learning & Engagement Manager

### How will you benefit?

- Volunteer in an inspiring environment and get closer to nature
- Great way to learn new skills
- Become part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meet like-minded people
- 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
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes
- WWT uniform provided
- Induction and training 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)

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### 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 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:

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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)

**Date reviewed:** February 2021