

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Horticulture Placement**

**Why do we need you?**

At WWT, we believe 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 WWT Slimbridge we offer our visitors an exciting opportunity get closer to some truly amazing wildlife by managing a bio-diverse, natural environment to enjoy all year round.

Our Grounds team are looking for a long-term volunteer to support them in undertaking a range of hands-on practical tasks that will directly enhance the grounds at the centre and our visitors’ enjoyment of it. These will be predominantly outdoor tasks and take place throughout all seasons of the year. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who is looking to develop their skills in the area to support their studies or who may be looking for a career in the field.

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

**Where will you be based?** Slimbridge

**How much time will it take?** Ideally a minimum six months for five days a week although fewer days a week will be considered.

**What will you be doing?**

* Helping with exhibit preparation and maintenance including weed control, pruning, mowing and the use of strimming equipment.
* Assisting with the horticultural work within the grounds and our exhibits, including pruning, watering and planting.
* Operating machinery with proper regard to safety regulations, using all tools safely and correctly; and observing and applying Health & Safety regulations at all times. All training will be given and PPE will be supplied.
* Ensuring the safety, welfare and enjoyment of the visiting public.
* Assisting with volunteers and volunteer groups.
* Assisting with off-show nursery work and managing our composting site with the use of a shredder and occasional bonfires.
* Assisting when necessary with duties such as path cleaning, litter picking and bench cleaning.

**Who are we looking for?**

* Someone who can commit to volunteering for six months or more. The start date is negotiable if doing it as part of a college placement, with September to end May being desirable.
* Someone with experience of horticulture/ grounds management or who is completing a course in a related subject. All training will be provided.
* Someone with knowledge of native and non-native plants or who is very keen to learn.
* Able to work independently when needed and see a task through to its end.
* Able to work as part of a team within the horticulture department, alongside other volunteers and occasional volunteer groups.
* As nearly all our volunteering roles take place in view of the public, you should have good communication skills and be willing to engage with our visitors to answer any queries and promote WWT as a whole.

**How will you benefit?**

* This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site and gain outdoor experience within an established horticulture team
* Suitable uniform is provided to all volunteers along with any PPE that is required
* Discount is available in the cafe and shop
* Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
* Training opportunities will be provided on such machines as mowers, strimmers and tractors

**General notes:**

This position may require volunteering during evenings, weekends and public holidays to ensure the objectives of the project are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement and advance notice will be given if we require a change of day. The grounds department working hours are between 8am and 4.30pm and we would require this volunteer placement to volunteer to the same hours where possible.

A current driving licence is essential for driving our tractors.

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 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

**Closing Date:**

Please return all completed application forms by **Sunday 25th April 2021**. After this date successful applicants will be contacted for an informal interview to find out more about the role and discuss availability after which suitable candidates will be offered placements.

**Date raised:**  March 2017 **Reviewed:** January 2021 SH