

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Living Wetland Theatre (Bird Displays) Placement**

**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 living wetland theatre team in all aspects of caring for animals within our live bird demonstrations. The role will also provide opportunity to gain limited experience within the mammal and amphibian departments.

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.

**Who will be responsible for your role?** Living Wetland Theatre Presentations Supervisor

**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 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
* Interacting with public around exhibits
* Completion of a portfolio evidencing all the skills and experience gathered during your placement
* Working with the mammal and amphibian teams to learn limited basic husbandry tasks within these two sections
* Assisting the wider living collections teams on centre-wide bird health catches

**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.
* A willingness and unwavering enthusiasm to work outdoors in all weathers!
* A passion for wildlife and a desire to share this with public by engaging them in spot talks and conversations.

**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
* Discount in WWT shops and cafes
* WWT uniform provided
* Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK 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.

**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 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. We hope to conduct interview w/c 10th May 2021.

**Date raised:**  February 2021 **Date Reviewed**: February 2021 SR / SH