WWT Wetlands for life

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Reserves Team (Seasonal) – London Wetland Centre

Why do we need you?

At WWT, we shape unforgettable experiences. By volunteering as part of our reserves team, you will be supporting WWT to provide our visitors with a great day out, through our pioneering habitat and species management work, encouraging visitors to engage with and support our work to save wetlands for wildlife and people.

Maintaining and developing a large nature reserve requires a lot of practical, hands-on physical tasks. Your role will be to provide regular support to the reserves team to provide our wildlife with the most beneficial of habitats, increase species biodiversity and ensure the reserve is functioning at its best by maintaining visitor access and on site facilities.

We now have a limited number of places to join this team for the coming season. This is a great opportunity as a potential stepping stone for anyone wanting to gain further experience in a career in conservation.

Who will be responsible for your role?	Reserves Manager
Where will you be based?	WWT London Wetland Centre
How much time will it take?	**Team workdays are from mid-July to mid-March, either Tuesdays or Wednesdays 9:30am – 4:30pm** (please note there may be scope for volunteer support beyond this, depending on Reserve work needed in 2020)

What will you be doing?

Tasks you may be undertaking include the following, but are not limited to:

- Tree and shrub work (small felling, brushwood processing, hedge cutting, pollarding, pruning, pulling up saplings and roots, bramble hooking, cutting stumps).
- Removing island vegetation (including boat use).
- Pruning willow screens.
- Reedbed raking and barrow work.
- Refurbishing of shingle island using barrows and boats.
- Fencing.
- Chipping, burning, raking vegetation waste and litter picking.
- Hide cleaning and footpath maintenance.
- Enthusing and interacting with visitors about WWT's wetland conservation work.

Who are we looking for?

You will need to have:

- A love of the outdoors and the natural environment.
- An interest in wildlife conservation, (previous experience or relevant qualifications are useful but not essential).
- The ability to complete outdoor activities in all types of weather.
- A reasonable level of fitness.
- The ability to work independently and as well as part of a team.
- A friendly, patient and reliable disposition.
- A minimum age of 18.

How will you benefit?

- Make a real difference to our pioneering wetland conservation work.
- Gain practical hands on skills and experience in habitat and species management.
- Be part of a friendly and dedicated team.
- Keeping fit and healthy through regular exercise.
- Appropriate training and support will be provided.
- WWT uniform and suitable Personal Protective Equipment will be provided.
- A discount is available in the cafe and shop on your days of volunteering.
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge.

General notes

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse travel expenses, however pre-agreed out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of your volunteering activities 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:

Applications are now open to join this small team until end of Sunday 23rd June. Please go to https://www.wwt.org.uk/support/volunteer-with-wwt/volunteering-opportunities/ to complete and submit the online application form. Email volunteer.london@wwt.org.uk if you have any problems. Successful applicants will be asked to come to the centre for an interview w/c 1st July, find out more about the role and discuss availability before being offered a placement from w/c 15th July.

Date raised: May 2019