



Essex Wildlife Trust Volunteer Role Description

Role description: Wilder Learning Assistant

Location: Thameside Nature Discovery Park

Reports to: Wilder Learning Officer

Role Purpose: To support the Wilder Learning Officer with the efficient running of education events ensuring a high quality and engaging education experience.

Background detail:

In the first half of 2022 the Essex Wildlife Trust's wilder learning activities were accessed by 12,600 people. These activities ranged from birthday parties, to school visits, to forest schools and nature tots. All of these events get children involved with the Trust and thinking more about protecting wildlife, education is a key part of our organisational aims. We have over 100 volunteers and 100 staff who focus on educating children about wildlife across Essex.

Role Description and key activities:

- Shadow and support the Wilder Learning Officer (WLO) to deliver activities for children.
- Assist the WLO preparations for sessions including setting up rooms and preparing materials.
- Welcome children and teachers/parents to sessions, chat to people as they arrive and help familiarise them with the site and activities and answer any questions they might have. This may also include taking a register as people arrive.
- Assist the WLO with running sessions, this will include helping to supervise children, directing them in the activities and ensuring they are safe and happy.
- Always follow the Essex Wildlife Trust Safeguarding and Health and Safety guidance for working with children.
- Some Education Assistants may also help with bookings.
- Always uphold the values of the Trust and actively promote the aims of the Trust with visitors.
- Work as part of a close knit team, closely following instructions and guidance.
- Please note that specific sessions are usually aimed at specific age groups, if you prefer to work with a specific age group or on a particular activity please let us know.

Specialist knowledge and experience:

- Experience of, or willingness to, work with children
- Must undertake internal EWT safeguarding training
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of /or interest in wildlife and an interest in working for a charity which is determined to protect wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex.

- Enthusiasm, a positive attitude and an ability to work well with people from a variety of backgrounds is essential.

Why volunteer and why this opportunity?

As well as the opportunity to make a significant contribution to a worthwhile organisation, this role provides opportunities to develop skills and knowledge. It is also an opportunity to become part of a thriving community of committed volunteers. This opportunity will allow you to get experience working with children in a conservation charity. The role can progress to a Volunteer Education Leader role if desired.

Time commitment

- Ideally volunteering for one day a week.
- Some roles are available to fill in or provide cover.
- Helping supervise education events with the support of an EWT member of staff.
- Willingness to be flexible with working days and awareness that education teams may be busiest during school holidays.

Special Conditions

- Essex Wildlife Trust is committed to equal opportunities and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all children and young people. Therefore, the successful applicant for this position will be subject to pre-employment checks including a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please note, it is an offence to apply for this position if barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.
- Some of our education roles will require a good level of physical fitness to support children in an outdoor environment, on uneven ground. Please let us know if you have accessibility requirements.