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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Bird Training Support**

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

In this role you will be assisting the presentations team in all aspects of caring for the birds that will appear in the displays in the Living Wetland Theatre this summer. This role would be ideal for someone studying Animal Care/Behaviour who is looking to gain hands-on experience.

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?** Living Wetland Theatre Presentations Supervisor

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

**How much time will it take?** We are looking for volunteers who can offer 1 to 3 days per week.

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

- Assisting with the daily cleaning of theatre birds
- Maintenance of pens and surrounding areas
- Feeding of theatre birds
- Assisting the presentations team in daily training protocols
- Assisting during free flight sessions, including retrieval of birds where necessary

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

This role will suit you if you;

- Are a team player with the ability to work under your own initiative
- Have excellent attention to detail
- Experience in bird keeping and/or animal training would be useful
- Have a basic understanding of bird behaviour
- Have good communication skills.
- A willingness and unwavering enthusiasm to work outdoors in all weathers!

## How will you benefit?

- This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a hands-on role
- Great way to learn new skills
- WWT uniform provided
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
- 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)
- Induction and training provided
- Be trained in a specialised skill that is transferable to other animal and zoo settings
- A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs

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## 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.

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:

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)