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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Grounds Support - Grounds & Gardens**

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

Grounds & Gardens Volunteers ensure the centre is looking its best for our visitors and maintain habitats for our living collections as well as our resident flora and fauna. There's plenty of ways to get stuck in and help maintain the grounds and gardens around Slimbridge Wetland Centre.

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?** Assistant Grounds Manager

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

**How much time will it take?** Sessions either start at 8.00am or 10.30am and finish around 4.30pm. We are looking for volunteers to join our teams on any days apart from Tuesdays. A minimum commitment of once a week is preferred.

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

- Those who volunteer from 8 am will be helping our wardens get the grounds ready for opening and completing any out-of-hour's jobs than need doing before visitors arrive.
- Assisting with the development and daily maintenance of the grounds at Slimbridge Wetland Centre.
- Planting, weeding and pruning.
- Helping us maintain and clean paths, outdoor furniture, hides, fences and play areas.
- Engaging with visitors about what you're doing, and the work of the wider WWT.
- Ensuring the safety, welfare and enjoyment of our visitors

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

This role will suit you if you:

- Enjoy working outdoors
- Are happy volunteering as part of a team
- Have a moderate level of fitness
- Have an interest in gardens and the natural environment
- Are happy engaging with visitors

- Have some knowledge or experience of gardening or conservation (not essential)
- Have a willing and can do attitude
- 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?

- Volunteer in an inspiring environment and get closer to nature
- Great way to learn new skills
- Make a real contribution to the conservation work of WWT
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes
- WWT uniform provided
- Induction and training provided
- Become part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meet like-minded people
- Great way to get outdoors and do some physical activity
- 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)

### General notes:

Because of the seasonal nature of this role there may be limited volunteering opportunities available within the gardens from December to February. However we will always find tasks for those who brave the winter weather.

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 2019: we are trialling a free minibus service for volunteers to/from the nearest train station and bus stops. Please ask your line manager if you would like to access this service.

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)

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