



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Reserve Event Assistant

Why do we need you?

Our Reserve Team run a busy schedule of events throughout the year to showcase the reserve and its amazing wildlife. The events are very popular and Reserve Event Volunteers help deliver a wide variety of events such as bird identification walks, VIP events and our famous Wild Safaris.

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.

Who will be responsible for your role? Reserve Warden

Where will you be based? WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

How much time will it take? Part day and full day volunteer sessions available but this can depend on event bookings, time of year and weather, so flexible. Morning, afternoon and evening volunteering opportunities may be available, depending on demand for events. A minimum commitment of once a week is preferred, but role could allow for several days per week.

What will you be doing?

Regular reserve events and activities include;

- **Wild Safari events** for visitors between May to September (weekends only outside of school holidays). Helping to deliver these popular events either as a driver, speaker or combination.
- **Bewick's Lodge VIP events** as booked by customers staying in our on-site holiday accommodation. Our offering could include morning walks around the hides and reserve throughout the year, or evening Wild Safari events between May to September.

In addition to these regular events there will be a wide variety of other opportunities to take part in, with the option to add more to the list depending on the skill set of volunteers. There will also be opportunities to support larger events run by the Reserve Team including feature weekends, species identification walks and other experience events. Full training will be provided for all roles.

Who are we looking for?

This role has many different opportunities, but overall the role will suit you if you:

- Are confident and pro-active in approaching people
- Are able to work on your own or as part of a team
- Have an interest in the natural environment
- Have an enthusiastic and friendly manner
- Are committed to excellent customer service

Beyond these, some additional skills are required for different roles.

Wild Safaris

- **Drivers:** Drivers will be paired with speakers who are happy to take the lead on the event, help visitors identify wildlife and answer questions. Drivers must have a full driving licence and should be confident in basic driving off-road (on natural surface tracks) with a large trailer, but training can be provided. Drivers are welcome to double-up as speakers if this is of interest
- **Speakers:** Speakers will take the lead on delivering our engagement, riding in the trailer with visitors, providing information about the reserve, helping visitors to identify wildlife and answering questions. Speakers should have good, basic bird identification skills and be confident talking to a group

Bewick's Lodge VIP events

- Have good, basic bird identification skills
- Able to volunteer early mornings (typically 8am start) and/or evenings (typically 5pm to 7pm)
- Drivers for the Wild Safari events must have a full driving licence

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
- 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:

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. Or alternatively full details of this and other roles can be found at 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

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