

Essex Wildlife Trust

Volunteer Role Description



Job title: Wilder Learning Volunteer

Volunteer Manager: 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

Our Wilder learning volunteers support the Wilder Learning Officer with the smooth running of our Forest School sessions for home educated children in the beautiful Langdon reserve near to Basildon. They help to ensure the children, aged 4- 11, have a high quality and engaging experience, connecting with nature. They assist the Willder Learning Officer in welcoming children and their adults to session, making attendees feel comfortable and familiar in their setting, modelling activities and supporting them in their chosen activities.

Time commitment

- Mondays 1.30 – 4pm 15th April- 20th May
- There will be other opportunities to be involved with the Wilder Learning team throughout the year

Location

Langdon Nature Discovery Park, Lower Dunton Road, Basildon, SS16 6EJ

Role description

- Shadow and support the Wilder Learning Officer (WLO) to deliver activities for children.
- Assist the WLO preparations for sessions and preparing materials.
- Welcome children and 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.
- 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 these sessions are aimed at 4-11 year olds.

Specialist knowledge and experience

- Volunteers must be aged 18 or over to volunteer.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Due to the nature of this volunteer position, vetting checks will be obtained including an Enhanced DBS check with a barred list check. We can only accept a DBS certificate where your certificate is registered with the Update Service.
- All Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers are required to complete any essential training including safeguarding.
- The role holder has a responsibility to safeguard and to volunteer in a way that promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- 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?

Wilder Learning Volunteers help supervise our education events all year round. You could be involved with our WILD themed birthday parties, holiday activities, Forest School days, curriculum linked school visits, woodcraft activities and assisting with setting-up and packing away. The role can progress to a Volunteer Education Leader role if desired.

You don't have to have a teaching qualification, just a desire to share your enjoyment of nature with a captive audience. You will need to be willing to work outside in all weathers. A good pair of wellies is recommended!

Special conditions

- 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.
- All Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers are required to complete any essential training.
- The role holder has a responsibility to safeguard and to volunteer in a way that promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Statement

Essex Wildlife Trust is committed to equal opportunities and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all children and young people. Therefore, the successful volunteer for this position will be subject to vetting checks including a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please note, it is an offence to apply for this volunteering role if barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.