

 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Living Collections Volunteer – Horticulture Support**

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 Living Collection plays a huge role in educating our visitors and raising the profile of wetlands.

In this role you will be assisting the Living Collections team in controlling and maintaining the habitats for birds in our Living Collection. We are looking to recruit a variety of practical volunteers who can help us with horticulture jobs in association with the Bird Team, both on and off show. These range from strimming and clearing, pruning, lawn care, weeding and mowing. You’ll often have an avian audience, and will need to complete all jobs to a standard safe for the birds. If you are motivated to maintain a lawn or weed some gravel for a naughty Nene, then this one’s for you!

Volunteers play a crucial role in saving wetlands for wildlife and people.

**This role involves:**

Sessions normally start from 10.30am but can start earlier at 8am depending on the intended nature of the work.

* Assisting with the development and daily maintenance of exhibits at the Slimbridge Wetland Centre.
* Working alongside birds and animals and observing their behaviour is not affected.
* Weeding, pollarding, pruning, edging and trimming.
* Lawn seeding and maintenance.
* Helping us maintain our facilities, from paths to fences.
* Engaging with visitors about what you’re doing, and the wider work of WWT.
* Ensuring the safety, welfare and enjoyment of our visitors

**This role will suit you if:**

* Enjoy working outdoors and with birds
* Are happy volunteering as part of a team
* Have a moderate level of fitness
* Have an interest in habitats 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.

**Practicalities**

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

**Who will you volunteer with?** *Deputy Living Collections Manager - Aviculture*

**Time commitment?** *Sessions either start at 8.00am or 10.30am, and finish around 4.30pm. We are looking for volunteers to support our amazing bird team. A minimum commitment of once a week is preferred.*

We want your volunteering to be a positive and fun experience. You’ll get a warm welcome, including information on training, equipment and other information you need. This will include risk assessments based on your role and any particular support you need.

Volunteers receiveaccess to our sites, and discounts in our shops and cafes. Some roles include a uniform or require the use of equipment or protective clothing.

If you are based at a particular site or office location, you’ll need to be able to get yourself there and back. Information on locations can be found on our [website](https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres).

If you are interested in volunteering for WWT but don't wish to apply online, please email volunteering@wwt.org.uk or leave a message at 01453 891 231 with your name and number.

We will keep you up to date with what’s happening across WWT and the difference you will be helping to make happen.

**Interested?**

If you are interested in this role, please complete an application form so that we can talk it through further with you.