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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Generation Wild - Puppeteer**

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At WWT we are aiming to inspire the next generation of nature-lovers. We believe the best way of doing this is to foster emotional connections to nature at our sites and where people live.

One of the ways we do this is through our learning programme and, in particular, through Generation Wild, our flagship nature connection project for children and families from disadvantaged communities. In this role you will be engaging our younger visitors by bringing the life-sized puppet 'Ava' to life as part of this project. As a puppeteer, you are key to making the experience a truly magical one for the children. At WWT we lead the way in environmental education and this project has already achieved a huge degree of success and has been recognised with awards and plaudits since its conception some 6 years ago. So, you will not only be part of professional team delivering at a very high standard but also joining a project with enviable credentials crucial in saving wetlands for wildlife and people.

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### **This role involves:**

Bringing Ava (the puppet) to life making her move to a set routine with the dialogue pre-recorded and played over a speaker system. You will be accompanied by a WWT staff member and / or volunteer.

Ava the puppet challenges the children to find out more about her story. You will create the magic with Ava the puppet.

Occasionally you will not be required to operate the puppet and will work in a supporting role instead. This will involve setting up the equipment, meeting and greeting the school children and guiding them as they carry out their tasks.

School staff are also in attendance.

### **This role will suit you if:**

- You are passionate about inspiring children to develop an emotional connection with nature.
- You have previous puppetry / theatre experience. This is in no way essential. This role will suit you if you are reasonably extrovert and have good stamina!!
- You have experience either in an educational setting or in an environment involving children.

You will:

- Enjoy performing and being in-character in front of visitors and enjoy working with a range of ages.
- Have a good level of fitness and strength as the puppet is quite heavy.

- Be reliable and punctual.
- Be prepared to make a commitment to volunteering
- Have an enthusiastic and friendly manner
- Be keen to give our visitors a first class experience

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## Practicalities

<b>Where will you be based?</b>	WWT Castle Espie Wetlands Centre
<b>Who will you volunteer with?</b>	You will volunteer within the Learning team and the Learning Manager will be your line manager
<b>Time commitment?</b>	One or two days a week, We will mutually agree the hours that you can contribute

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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 receive access 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](#).

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

You will need your own transport to get to the centre as it is 2 miles from the nearest public transport in Comber. We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site.

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.