

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Learning Assistant**

**Why do we need you?**

We’re WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife. We’re on a mission to restore wetlands because they are a wondrous solution to our world's problems. Together we will unlock their power – and help nature burst back to life. Because when wetlands flourish, all life will flourish.

At WWT Llanelli Wetland Centre we believe the best way for people to understand and connect to wetlands is to experience them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close. Our enthusiasm for what we do motivates others to support our cause and ultimately helps save wetlands and their wildlife.

You will be contributing to this aspect of our work by assisting the Learning department with the delivery of learning sessions to school groups during term time.

**Who will be responsible for your role?** Learning Manager

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

**How much time will it take?** Approx. 3 - 5 hours one day per week in term time depending on the number of classes attending (9.30am – 12.30pm or 9.30am – 2.30pm).

**What will you be doing?**

* Engaging with learners during their session and assisting them with practical tasks such as pond dipping, using binoculars and minibeast hunting.
* Operating a station during a round robin – discussing different features of bird adaptations (this information will be provided for you).
* Engaging with learners during walks, pointing out interesting features in the wetlands, reiterating information from the leader to in-bed learners understanding.
* Operating the digital microscope during pond dipping and minibeast hunting sessions.
* Assisting with set up and pack down of activities and general clean up after school visits.
* Meeting and greeting schools when they arrive.
* Leading a small group during our Generation Wild session which takes place on the reserve (all groups accompanied by at least one member of staff from the visiting school, there will be no expectation to be unaccompanied).

**Who are we looking for / Skills Required?**

No previous knowledge is required as training and equipment will be provided. However, this role will suit you if you have:

* A good basic knowledge of UK wildlife, conservation and nature.
* An enthusiasm for the natural world and sharing this with others.
* Ability to communicate effectively with children.
* Willingness to work outside in most weather conditions. Please note the role will require some lifting, bending and other reasonable physical activities.
* Excellent and reliable time management to ensure that sessions are ready to run on time and with all equipment ready 5-10 minutes before sessions are due to start.
* Ability to work well with other WWT Llanelli staff and volunteers.
* A generally happy, warm and welcoming disposition.

**How will you benefit?**

* This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site.
* You will volunteer outdoors and enjoy close encounters with wetland wildlife.
* You will be part of a friendly and dedicated team with plenty of opportunities to meet new people.
* Suitable uniform is provided to all regular volunteers.
* Discount is available in the cafe and shop on the days of volunteering.
* Training opportunities will be provided.
* Improved knowledge of wetland species and environments.
* Gain experience working with children.

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.

**General notes**The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement. This position may require you to help on other days in addition to rota days but this will be infrequent and will be agreed with the Learning Manager.

Getting to the site - WWT Llanelli lies on the northern shore of the Burry Inlet facing the Gower Peninsula and is off the A484 and B4304 to Swansea and is on the Sustrans Celtic Trail Route 4. If arriving by car there is free parking and bike racks are available as well as a covered bike shed. There is no public transport directly to the site. Llanelli bus station is a 40-minute walk away, while from Llanelli Bus Station, you can catch the 110 or 111 bus towards Swansea for a ten-minute ride to nearby Llwynhendy. If you get off at The Joiners Arms pub, it’s then a 25-minute walk the centre.

We regret we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred in travelling to and from the centre, 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 opportunity 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.
 **Date raised:**  March 2024