

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** **Reserve Support**

**Why volunteer with us?**

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. We lead the way, bring life and inspire connection. Our main values enrich our community:

* By restoring our wonderful wetlands we gain deeper connections
* By inspiring future volunteers we will inspire others to value, act and benefit from wetlands
* To Thrive! We believe our volunteers will thrive in making WWT a more sustainable and inclusive organisation.

**Why do we need you?**

Volunteers are integral to the running of our London reserve and without their help we wouldn’t be able to maintain this amazing 105 acre wetland of international importance, with views across to the City. Our volunteer team are friendly, motivated and hard-working and say they benefit by gaining new experiences, meeting new people and most importantly making a difference by helping maintain important wetland habitat.

Maintaining and managing a large wetland nature reserve requires a lot of practical, hands on physical tasks. With first-class training and guidance, you’ll be part of a small and dedicated team that cares for a variety of breeds in all weathers, to help tell our conservation story. Your role will be to provide regular support to the reserves team in all practical reserve management, to maintain habitats, increase species biodiversity and ensure the reserve and grounds areas are functioning at their best for our visitors.

**Wetlands for the win!**

Looking for valuable work experience to gain relevant skills or want to spend more time outdoors? Or both? Look no further - a volunteering position with us plays a crucial role in saving wetlands for wildlife and people as well as:

* Being part of a volunteering experience in an inspiring environment and getting closer to nature
* Making a real contribution to the conservation work of WWT
* Learning new, transferable skills and being part of an inclusive volunteering experience
* Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
* Gaining free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge, and enjoying a great discount in WWT shops and cafes
* You will be provided with a WWT uniform and receive full induction and training for your role

**This role involves:**

* assisting with all practical reserve management activities including scrub clearance, pruning, pollarding and fencing
* supporting staff and other volunteers with the construction and maintenance of island scrapes, ditches and reed beds, ensuring that reserve water bodies are maintained and managed appropriately (boat use may be needed)
* operating agreed machinery safely in order to carry out management activities
* assisting with the construction and maintenance of access routes to the bird hides including the maintenance of fences, footpaths and hides
* working with a variety of hand tools safely and correctly, observing and applying health and safety regulations at all times
* taking due care for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of the visiting public
* you may be asked to undertake related ad hoc tasks

**This role will suit you if:**

You have a can-do attitude and are happy to help us in all weathers, and are both a practical person and physically fit. Having experience in some habitat management would be helpful, but a keenness to learn is more important. It’s a closely-working team, however, the ability to work under your own initiative and being self-motivated is also needed. Having, or being happy to develop, the confidence to engage our visitors with the work of WWT is also a key part of this role.

**Practicalities**

**Where will you be based?** London Wetland Centre

**Who will you volunteer with?** Reserve Support Team – led by Reserve Manager

**Time commitment?** We are looking for volunteers who can ideally commit to Tuesday and/or Wednesday on a regular basis. Shifts days are 9.00am and finish at c4.30pm. However, we will mutually agree the hours that you can contribute.

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

**Interested?**

Full details of this and other roles can be found at [www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer). We celebrate inclusivity and diversity amongst our volunteering community and encourage applicants to state any disabilities they have for provided support. Please state any disabilities in your application form, or contact us at volunteering@wwt.org.uk to state what support you need either in locating the information or filling out the application process so we can cater for your additional needs.