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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Living Collections Volunteer – Horticulture Support**

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### **Why do we need you?**

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!

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Deputy Living Collections Manager - Aviculture

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

**How much time will it take?** 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.

### **What will you be doing?**

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

### **Who are we looking for?**

This role will suit you if you:

- 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.

### How will you benefit?

- Volunteer in an inspiring environment and get closer to nature
- Great way to learn new skills
- Make a real contribution to the conservation work of WWT
- Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
- Discount in WWT shops and cafes
- WWT uniform provided
- Induction and training provided
- Become part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meet like-minded people
- Great way to get outdoors and do some physical activity

### General notes:

Because of the seasonal nature of this role there may be limited volunteering opportunities available from December to February. However we will always find tasks for those who brave the winter weather.

Road: Slimbridge Wetland Centre is 2 miles off the A38. There is a large car park with ample car parking spaces and there is a bike rack available for staff volunteers. Rail: Cam & Dursley rail station is a 3.5 mile cycle or taxi ride away. Bus: Unfortunately there is no bus service directly to Slimbridge: the nearest services stop is at the A38, 2 miles walk from the Centre.

We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. Any pre-agreed out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the course of the role will be reimbursed.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement 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.