

 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Canoe Safari Support**

**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!

*We lead the way, bring life and inspire connection!*

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 volunteers help to welcome and inspire visitors and look after our unique habitats and heritage.

On the canoe safari, visitors can take to the water to see the wetlands and wildlife from a new perspective.

Looking for valuable work experience to gain relevant skills or wanting to spend more time outdoors? Or both? You will assist with greeting our visitors with a warm welcome to canoe safari and assisting with the day-to-day operations you will be helping visitors enjoy a memorable experience every time they visit.

*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.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Assistant Grounds Manager

**Where will you be based?** WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre / Canoe Safari

**How much time will it take?**  The canoe safari is open from Easter throughout the summer season until the end of September. It is then open during weekends and holidays until the end of October.

Part-time and full-time opportunities are available. The Canoe Trail is open from 11am – 4pm but we will mutually agree the hours you are able to contribute.

**What will you be doing?**

* Greeting visitors, explaining how to engage in the activity and sharing seasonal highlights about the wildlife and wetland habitat of the canoe trail
* Supporting the canoe safari operator in the preparation, hiring and clearing away of canoes and associated equipment
* Ensuring the canoes are safe to use and that all canoes and accessories are checked between each use, cleaned if necessary and kept in good working order
* Assisting with providing instruction and advice to visitors on using the canoe safely and to ensure buoyancy aids are provided and fitted correctly. Ensuring health safety instructions and standards are strictly adhered to
* Reporting any damage or repairs to the canoe safari operator and to assist with keeping accurate records of all canoe hire and maintenance
* Ensuring visitors read and sign the conditions of the canoe hire agreement.
* Assisting with taking payment for the hire of the canoes and buoyancy aids. Ensuring accurate financial records are kept for all hires
* Supporting with the maintenance of the canoe trail habitat and the grounds around the canoe safari through regular cleaning, horticulture, and clearance work
* Assisting the Grounds team with the smooth running of events and group bookings

**Who are we looking for?**

Please note that due to the levels of responsibility and insurance arrangements volunteers in this role must be over 18 years of age.

This role will suit you if you have:

* Experience of successful face-to-face contact with the public
* Excellent verbal communication skills and a commitment to excellent customer service
* An interest in and enthusiasm for the work of WWT
* An understanding of the safe operation of canoes
* An ability to use initiative, take responsibility and seek help from staff, when necessary, when responding to the visitors and their enquiries
* An interest in hands-on conservation and a desire to develop practical experience

**Wetlands for the win! 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

**General notes:**

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 able 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 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.

**How to Apply:**

Full details of this role and an online application form can be found at [www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer) .

If you have any problems locating the information or filling out the application form please email volunteer.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk

We celebrate inclusivity and diversity amongst our volunteering community and encourage applicants to state any disabilities they have for provided support.

**Date reviewed:**  January 2025