

Grow Cook Learn Volunteer Profile

POST: Discovery Centre Ranger Volunteer

MAIN LOCATION: Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

RESPONSIBLE TO: Centre Manager

BRIEF DUTIES OF POST

To work under the direction of the Centre Manager and alongside the Centre's Maintenance Caretaker, this outdoor role involves a variety of tasks aimed at keeping our grounds looking their best for the benefit of our visitors and the huge range of wildlife that lives here.

With so much wildlife under threat, you will be working to ensure that our meadows provide a home for a variety of plants, insects, birds and mammals for generations to come.

We don't expect you to be able to carry out all the tasks listed below, just the ones you feel comfortable with, but this role provides the opportunity to learn myriad new skills.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To carry out general gardening duties such as weeding, planting, edging, mowing, brushing up and trimming hedges around the Centre, helping it to be always presented at its best.
2. To carry out general caretaking duties such as emptying bins, litter picking and filling the bird feeders
3. To carry out repair work around the Centre and meadows to a level compatible with your skills.
4. To assist in conservation work such as coppicing, pond clearance, tree pruning, mowing and fencing.
5. To assist visitors when necessary with information on the Centre and surrounding areas.
6. Working within a group to carry out wildlife surveys

What you will learn

1. How we preserve our meadows within a Higher-level stewardship scheme
2. How to identify the many different species of wildlife that live here
3. How to carry out tasks such as coppicing, scything, pruning, trimming with quality training.
4. How to carry out wildlife surveys
5. The importance of teamwork and good timekeeping
6. Volunteering in this role will provide a good grounding for a career in conservation or gardening.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION:

- You will have an interest in the outdoors and a passion for conservation and wildlife.
- You will be comfortable using basic gardening tools such as lawn mowers, trimmers and shovels.
- You will be able to work outdoors in a role which involves some physically demanding tasks