

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre Home of Grow Cook Learn

Trustee Job Description

Role: Trustee

Hours: 4-8 per month

Salary: This is a voluntary position

How to apply:

Email your CV and cover letter, detailing your interest and suitability for the role to info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk.

The Role

Grow Cook Learn's board currently comprises seven trustees who give their time and expertise for free to serve both as Company Directors and Charity Trustees.

The prime responsibility of the Trustees is to ensure that the charity's aims are pursued and it is an essential requirement that Trustees have the commitment, skills and expertise to help Grow Cook Learn achieve its mission. However, it is not essential that you have experience of being a trustee as we welcome diversity and can support and guide you in your role.

We are currently seeking to bolster our knowledge and experience of education, fundraising and tourism and encourage people from these backgrounds to apply. We are also happy to accept applications from those who don't have knowledge of these areas.

We'd love to hear from you if you are:

- An experienced professional who has specific expertise the charity is looking for
- Passionate about the charity's aims
- An individual who wants to develop their skills
- A resident from the local community or members who want to see the centre succeed.

Key Responsibilities

- Appoint, support and hold to account the charity's management
- Safeguard the financial sustainability, assets and reputation of the charity
- Plan and monitor the future development and sustainability of the organisation
- Ensure that legal responsibilities to staff, volunteers, visitors and partners are met
- Act as ambassadors for the charity and make useful connections with relevant organisations and individuals
- Prepare for, attend and contribute to bi-monthly board meetings
- Be accountable for a specific area of interest e.g. education, meadows, fund-raising, community relations, etc. and report on progress and issues in this area
- Volunteer and assist at one or more of our key events in the year e.g. Community Bonfire, Hay Meadow Festival, Shropshire Way 80K
- The Chair and Vice-Chair also meet with the Manager every fortnight to review and support on operational issues
- Build relationships with the operational team by understanding their roles and providing them with support where necessary

What are the benefits of being a Trustee?

- Support the mission of a successful, local charity that you believe in
- Develop yourself professionally by gaining new skills and experience of working on a board and for a charity

- Increase your network by working with people from different businesses and backgrounds
- Experience of volunteering and supporting charitable aims

Who Are We?

Grow Cook Learn is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity. The charity's goal is to connect people to the rich outdoor world around them. Visitors to the Shropshire Hills come to the Discovery Centre to enjoy, experience, discover, learn about and be inspired by:

1. The great food that comes from the area, how to grow and cook it and how food and its production affects our environment and health
2. The beauty and variety of the Shropshire Hills landscape, the wildlife (flora and fauna) it supports and how to explore, appreciate and protect this both in our Onny Meadows and using the area's wider abundance of footpaths, bridleways and lanes
3. The fascinating natural, human and economic history of the Shropshire Hills and the present and future challenges that the area faces
4. Our work with and for the local community and its diversity of populations and interests

We're proud to host the life-size replica of the Shropshire Mammoth found in the area in 1986. This changed our knowledge of what animals lived here after the end of the last Ice Age; it vividly captures the evolving relationship between food, landscape and history in the Shropshire Hills.

The more visitors we have the more people we reach with our message and the more income we generate to improve and extend the visitor experience and to contribute to the local community.

Grow Cook Learn began running Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in April 2014, taking over from Shropshire Council. Within our first five years we turned around a heavily loss-making destination to make it financially sustainable. We attract over 100,000 visitors a year from across Shropshire, the West Midlands and the Welsh Marches whilst maintaining a strong local connection with the residents of Craven Arms.

Our aim is to connect and educate people from all backgrounds and ages about the landscape, wildlife, history and food of the beautiful Shropshire Hills. Our facilities include 30 acres of meadows, an exhibition centre with cinema, educational facilities, a shop, gallery and café, serving fresh hot and cold food made using local produce and ingredients grown within our 30 acres.

The charity currently has a stable and friendly Trustee and Staff set-up and we're developing our mission-advancing activities significantly over the next five years. In November 2019 we launched our Outstanding Natural project with an aim to secure funding for:

- Squelch; a wetland scrape to provide home to many more species and alleviate flooding further along the river Onny
- Our Soils got Soul; an educational organic horticultural project that enhances our environment
- Hillfort Home; an Iron Age hill fort hut and cookhouse reconstruction
- Wildlife Café and Kitchen; a stylish, functional and green energy café to feed our visitors with fresh, home and locally grown produce

Equality and Diversity Statement

Grow Cook Learn believe that a team of diverse individuals with a wide range of life experiences build stronger community insight and are able to develop innovative, creative and practical solutions. We encourage applicants from individuals from all walks of life.