

 **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Living Collections Presentations Support**

**Why do we need you?**

Support our Presentations team who care for our mammals, amphibians, and demonstration birds! The presentations department forms half of our Living Collections team, and is split into three sections: Mammals, care for our otters, harvest mice and voles, Ectotherms look after our huge collection of amphibians and fish, and the Theatre team who care for and train the birds who fly in our free-flight display. It’s a busy, varied department with lots going on all year round. We’re looking for volunteers to help support what we do day-to-day, so we can continue to achieve and push forward in what we can deliver for the animals under our care, as well as the visitors who come through our doors!

This role would be ideal for someone studying Animal Care/Behaviour who is looking to gain hands-on experience, but will suit anyone who enjoys jumping into a variety of odd jobs and learning new (sometimes quite niche) skills!

**Who will be responsible for your role?** Living Collections Supervisors – Presentations

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

**How much time will it take?** 1 to 2 days per week.
Start at 08:00 and finish at 16:30, with a half hour tea break in the morning, and a 1 hour lunchbreak from 13:00-14:00.

Due to the practical nature of this role, You and the Team will get the most out of this opportunity by completing full days with us, however, if slightly amended hours may work better for you, please let us know and we can discuss options.

**What will you be doing?**

This is a varied role across three sections, volunteer resources are likely to be allocated differently depending on the demands and needs of each day, some of the things you are likely to help us out with include:

* Assisting with the daily husbandry of the theatre birds, mammals and amphibians
* Maintenance of enclosures, ponds, and surrounding areas- this may include the use of some power tools *e.g.* pressure washer, drills or lawn mowers etc. after training has been provided.
* Supporting the team to help maintain good hygiene and biosecurity in all areas of the department including kitchens and food-prep areas.
* Supporting the smooth operation of our animal presentations, which will include some public engagement *e.g.* directing visitors and answering basic questions

**Who are we looking for?**

This role will suit you if you;

* Enjoy learning new skills and can follow instruction given to you
* Are a team player with the ability to work well with different people
* Have good communication skills.
* Have excellent attention to detail
* Have a basic understanding of animal behaviour
* A willingness to work outdoors in all weathers!
* Experience in animal care would be useful.

**How will you benefit?**

* This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer within an internationally important wetland site in a hands-on role, supporting a team who work to inspire and educate the visitors who come through our door!
* Great way to learn new skills
* WWT uniform provided
* Discount in WWT shops and cafes
* Free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK on presentation of your WWT name badge
* Induction and training provided
* Be trained in a specialised skill that is transferable to other animal and zoo settings
* A suitable reference to help you apply for jobs

**General notes:**

This position may require you to volunteer during weekends and public holidays to ensure objectives are met. The exact hours you are able to contribute will be discussed prior to placement.

Getting to the Centre: 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 regular bus service directly to Slimbridge: the nearest services stop is at the A38, 2 miles walk from the Centre. There may be local ring and ride services available such as The Robin (<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/>)

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.

**Date raised:** October 2018 **Date Reviewed**: June 2024