

Wild about Scotland (WaS) Volunteers

Reporting to the Wild about Scotland team

The RZSS Discovery and Learning Department is looking for enthusiastic and willing volunteers to assist with the delivery of our successful Wild about Scotland (WaS) programme, supported by Clydesdale Bank, which is connecting people in Scotland with their local biodiversity. The WaS outreach programme involves a bespoke double-decker bus which travels the length and breadth of Scotland. During weekends and school holidays it operates as a drop in mobile museum for members of the general public to find out about Scottish wildlife. Visitors to the bus take part in activities such as building beaver dams, guessing the animal skulls and looking at mini-beasts under microscopes. During term time we run sessions on local wildlife for schools across the country. More information can be found here: www.rzss.org.uk/wildaboutscotland

WaS Volunteer Specific Duties:

Following training, volunteers will be able to:

- **Drop-in Sessions:** Enabling visitors to the bus to enjoy the interactive resources including biofacts for handling (e.g. skins & skulls), quizzes and activities, such as building beaver dams. They will also help inform bus visitors about Scottish wildlife and promote the work RZSS is doing to conserve it.
- **Bus Setup:** Assist with the setup of the bus when it arrives at a venue.
- **Local biodiversity-themed activities & other events:** Assist with events at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo such as Bioblitzes, and the Wild about Scotland Days.
- **School sessions:** Assist with the taught sessions to school children on-board the bus (NB: an RZSS Education Officer will always be present and responsible for the overall running of the classes).
- **Other activities:** Opportunities to assist with other RZSS activities or events as and when they occur. Additional training would be provided when necessary.

WaS Volunteer Role:

- Volunteers will attend an induction and will receive specific training for this role
- Volunteers will be supervised by the Wild about Scotland team when on duty
- Volunteers will be required to arrive at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo at pre-arranged times to allow for travel time to schools or venues
- This role involves **regulated work with children** so all volunteers accepted into this role will be required to join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) scheme or complete an update form if they are already a member

WaS Volunteer Person Specification:

We are looking for volunteers with the following skills and attributes:

- Aged 18 or over

- Friendly, outgoing and self-confident
- Good communication skills – with both adults and children
- An interest in engaging with the general public and teaching children
- Good team working skills, and able to act on instructions
- Keen interest in animals* and conservation, particularly native Scottish species & biodiversity
- Keen to learn and stay informed
- Reliability and regular attendance – we would hope volunteers are able to commit regularly to the Wild about Scotland drop in sessions which run during weekends and school holidays.
- There may be opportunities for extended trips away for volunteers (depending on volunteer's interest) usually lasting no more than 5 days (accommodation and food provided)
- Happy to travel with the team to locations across Central Scotland on day trips and potentially further afield for extended trips
- This role may involve being stationed outdoors at times, during all seasons, and some physical activity so volunteers should be prepared for this**

WaS Volunteer Benefits:

- Opportunity to assist the Discovery and Learning Department therefore helping us achieve our charitable objective of delivering education
- Opportunity to travel to various locations in Scotland and visit different venues and schools

General RZSS Volunteer Benefits:

- Opportunity to be involved in the work of an international conservation charity
- Chance to contribute to a team of like-minded people
- Free access to RZSS Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park
- Free car parking at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo
- Discounts in RZSS catering outlets
- Invitation to social events
- Free attendance to relevant RZSS educational talks for training purposes

Please note:

- All our volunteers should ensure that their tetanus inoculations are up to date
- Volunteers are entitled to claim travel expenses, if they wish, for travel to and from duty days and training sessions

** This role involves little direct contact with live animals. However, volunteers will have the opportunity to assist with mini-beast hunts and similar activities so should be comfortable handling invertebrates and other small animals.*

*** Whilst we do welcome volunteers of all abilities and needs, please let us know if you do have special needs that we should be aware of.*