

Role Profile - Community Engagement Volunteer

About Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is the leading voice for wildlife conservation across Hertfordshire and Middlesex. With volunteers, we manage a network of nature reserves covering nearly 2,000 acres, from beautiful wetlands and woodlands to rare patches of heath and orchard. We take practical action every day to help wildlife flourish.

About Community Engagement Volunteering

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust runs a series of guided walks, talks, workshops and activities throughout the year. We also hold larger-scale events, such as our two-day Festival of Wildlife in July and Apple Day in October. We have a dedicated group of volunteers that help with all aspects of these events from welcoming visitors to giving talks on the work of the Trust. We want to give more people of all ages access to and understanding of the nature around them and to inspire them to care for their local wildlife.

Our Community Engagement Volunteers could lead guided walks through our nature reserves (we have 40 sites across Hertfordshire and Middlesex), give talks to community groups, run children/family activities at community events, develop our library storywalks, assist with our pop-up visitor centres and provide support for challenge events.

Volunteers will be able to specialise in one area (i.e. leading guided walks) or can get involved in the wider programme, including working as a team at larger scale Trust events.

Volunteers can be involved in preparations and planning as well as the on the day delivery of events and activities.

FAQs about volunteering

Why become a Community Engagement Volunteer?

- Share your passion of our wildlife and local area with interested local people
- Develop your skills and confidence
- Support the work of the Trust by raising the charity's profile, increasing fundraising and membership opportunities
- Receive support from a group of staff and volunteers working together to deliver a programme of events throughout the year
- Meet like-minded people from the local community and have fun!
- Get outdoors and explore new places

What general attributes and skills will we be looking for?

- No expert knowledge required but a willingness to learn and enthuse others
- A personal and friendly manner
- Confidence to interact with the public

- Flexible and willing to volunteer outdoors
- Enthusiastic about wildlife and the work of the Trust
- Willingness to work as part of a team
- Ability to chat to the general public advantageous but roles at larger events can be non-public facing
- Owner of / access to own transport desirable due to the location of nature reserves

What support and training will be provided?

- Mentoring with a staff member or expert volunteer on how to lead a guided walk in a natural heritage context. Learn the skills and tricks to deliver inspiring guided walks.
- Training on how to give a wildlife talk to a community group.
- Induction training covering an introduction to the work of the Trust, completion of paperwork and planning tasks such as dynamic risk assessments and information on our policies and procedures.
- First aid training – external certificated training (for walk leaders)
- Full support at events by existing members of staff/volunteers
- Reasonable travel expenses can be claimed for travel to/from events and training.
- Invitation to annual Volunteer Thank You evening

What time commitment is involved?

- Generally ad-hoc to suit – can be a couple of hours for a guided walk to a full day at a major event.
- Mostly day-time, either during the week or weekends.
- Occasional evenings to support or deliver community talks and evening walks.

What does the Trust expect from volunteers?

- Be the “face” of the Trust locally and be able to tell people about our work and how they can support us
- Work in accordance with all relevant HMWT policies and procedures including Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection etc

Where will volunteers be based?

- Volunteers can be based anywhere but must be willing to travel to events and activities in Hertfordshire or Middlesex. Locations include the Trust’s nature reserves, at local community events, libraries and the Trust’s office in St Albans. Flexible depending on volunteer needs.

Contact us to find out more

For more information or to request an Expression of Interest form, please contact:

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