

Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role

Residential Voluntary Intern

Volunteer Manager

RSPB Reserve Team

Where you will be based

Community

Why we want you

The RSPB Voluntary Internship scheme is designed to provide the experience, training, skills and knowledge required to pursue a career in conservation by gaining a wide range of practical experience in a variety of habitats.

Our reserves are vital havens for a huge range of species, and special spaces for us all to get closer to nature, and we want you to be a part of our team managing these whilst you are gaining the experience to start your career in conservation.

The tasks for our voluntary internships vary greatly depending on the reserve you are on, but it will be vital work that we can't do without you, such as opening and closing procedures, meeting and greeting, monitoring and surveying or practical management of the reserve.

What you will be doing

- The tasks will vary greatly depending on what reserve you are on, but it may include the following:
- Practical conservation work.
- Visitor operations, such as welcoming visitors and maintaining visitor facilities.
- Undertaking wildlife monitoring work.
- Reserve checks and general maintenance.
- Running or helping at events for the public.

The skills you need

- We will provide all the training and information needed to carry out the role. But depending on which residential opportunity you apply for, you might need some experience in a key area.
- Excellent organisational skills.
- Enthusiasm.
- Willingness to learn.
- Experience working as part of a team with the ability to lead other volunteers.
- Driving licence.

What's in it for you

- This scheme is designed to give you the training and experience needed to pursue a career in conservation. As well as providing lots of opportunities to gain first hand experience, we will assist your personal development and progression. It is also important that you take advantage of the opportunities that will arise during the placement to learn new skills, gain new experiences and increase your conservation knowledge.
- We will offer you:
 - Experience of working in a team and supervising other volunteers.
 - A working knowledge of the RSPB and conservation issues.
 - Experience of all aspects of a reserve such as visitor services and events, including visitor centre, and events management.
 - Excellent practical experience of working on a nature reserve and managing different habitats for wildlife. Depending on the site, these could include upland, lowland wet grassland, peat bog, reed bed and ancient woodland.
 - An understanding of management planning process, priority habitats, target species and their habitat requirements, and management options.
 - Free accommodation (including bills) in stunning surroundings on, or close to the reserve.
- Training
 - Whilst you're here we'll provide you with both in-house and external training:
 - An RSPB induction and full site induction.
 - In-house – regular training on a variety of subject areas including visits to other local nature reserves.
 - Training & qualifications in the use of machinery and power tools as required.
 - Training & experience in specialist computer applications eg Merlin, as required.
 - Your supervisor will provide structure to your development in the form of an Aims and Objectives document, there will be regular meetings to check your progress, an initial 4 week trial period and a six month review.

Disclaimer

Minimum age 18.

Our internships are designed to offer work experience. However, doing an internship does not, unfortunately, guarantee future employment with the RSPB. Interns are welcome to apply for our paid vacancies, but for obvious reasons, an intern would need to have proven themselves in their current role before their volunteering experience will assist an application for a paid post.

Please note that this role will involve undertaking strenuous manual labour working outside in all weathers.

We're now the largest nature conservation charity in the country, consistently delivering successful conservation, forging powerful new partnerships with other organisations and inspiring others to stand up and give nature the home it deserves. We rely on the support and generosity of our volunteers to make a difference

Our work stretches far beyond the UK. Wherever wildlife is in threat, we'll work with partners across the globe to help save it and give it a home.