

Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role

Volunteer Manager

Where you will be based

Student Placement

RSPB Team

Other

Why we want you

The RSPB is 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. We will help you gain skills and give you an invaluable insight into our essential work.

We are seeking students in higher or further education who are interested in volunteering for a course-related student placement, one that matches your interests, course and learning needs. This opportunity is available during your academic year or during a gap year, allowing you to contribute to our essential functions and gain valuable experience relevant to your studies.

In this role, you will undertake various tasks as part of a team supporting the operations of RSPB. These tasks can encompass roles within different departments such as Communications, Fundraising, Education, Families, and Youth, Ecology, Habitat Management, and Volunteering Development. The specific activities will vary based on the team's requirements and your course needs. Tasks may include research, surveying, habitat management, stakeholder communication, project participation, meeting follow-ups, volunteer support, administration, or responding to inquiries.

By opening our work to more student volunteer placements in this way, it means we can scale up what we can achieve and do more for nature. Are you keen to play your part in helping conserve nature, have skills and knowledge you can share, and be in education where a placement opportunity is needed to support your educational learning?

Suitable for anyone on a further or higher education course.

Placements lasting more than 2 weeks will be fully trained on our in-house systems in the role, and ongoing support will be provided. We'll also ensure you're set up with an RSPB email account & login, which will enable you to access the RSPB systems you'll need. You'll need to complete our GDPR and Safeguarding training which can be done online.

Depending on the specific role, and in line with our Safeguarding Policy, applications for this role may be subject to an appropriate disclosure check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (England and Wales), AccessNI in Northern Ireland or a Protected Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) registration in Scotland. Successful applicants will also be expected to register with the Update Service where appropriate.

We will also need details of your tutor or a member of your university staff team to support this placement.

The RSPB will reimburse you for out-of-pocket expenses, travel expenses, and we will provide the equipment, training and any uniform needed for you to complete the role.

We are committed to developing an inclusive and diverse RSPB, in which everyone feels supported, valued, and able to be their full selves. Please do contact us to discuss any additional support you may need to complete your application.

What you will be doing

- The tasks for this role will vary depending on the specific responsibilities, but they may include the following:
- Participating in team meetings, actively listening, and noting actions to complete.
- Communicating with stakeholders.
- Addressing enquiries from volunteers or stakeholders.
- Tracking and documenting work using spreadsheets.
- Engaging with various audiences, both internal and external to the RSPB, through daily interactions such as email, document sharing, team meetings, and face-to-face interactions with staff, visitors, stakeholders and volunteers.

The skills you need

- This role will require some key general skills, but please note that we will offer full training and induction into this area of the business.
- Be a confident user of Microsoft Word, Outlook and Excel.
- Happy/comfortable volunteering remotely, from your own home, or on a nature reserve or office.
- Good written communication skills as you will be asked to produce emails, documents and possibly data.
- Be reliable and committed.
- Be able to work as part of a team when asked, and also independently when trained.

- Use our shared organisational values led behaviours in your actions (Courage, Clarity, Collaboration and Connection).

What's in it for you

- An RSPB Student Placement presents a wonderful chance to apply your current skills, acquire new ones, enhance your transferable skills, and hone your existing expertise.
- It offers an opportunity to gain insight into the relevance of your studies to a professional career, all within a small, welcoming team environment.
- Engaging in a student placement will connect you with a network of industry professionals, mentors, and peers who can provide valuable guidance and support.
- You will gain in-depth knowledge of the workings of the RSPB and valuable experience in the realm of environmental conservation.
- Your significant support to the RSPB will bring you satisfaction through genuine contributions to nature conservation.

Disclaimer

Protecting habitats, saving species and helping to end the nature and climate emergency. Nature is in crisis. Together we can save it.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.