

Gardening Volunteer - Role Description



1. About us:

Woodlands Farm, located within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, is the largest city farm in the UK. Run as a traditional working farm with conservation and education as its core values, it is an oasis of countryside in London.

We manage the land by grazing cattle and sheep in our wildflower and grass meadows and don't use any fertilizers or herbicides on the farm. The variety of habitats, animals, regular events and education activities run all year round offering lots of opportunity to learn and explore for visitors of all ages.

As a charity we are run predominantly by dedicated volunteers who, based on their skills and interests, support various projects from land management, animal care and handling, to education and conservation.

2. What we are looking for:

The Woodlands Farm Trust has 3 main gardening areas:

- The Cottage Garden –welcomes farm's visitor, being located near the main building, at the entrance. The garden contains a variety of annual and perennial plants that includes ornamental plants as well as fruits and vegetables.
- The Arena Garden – a wide growing area with 2 poly tunnels, 8 raised beds and green area
- Flower bed around the farmyard – maintenance of the flower beds and picnic areas around the farmyard

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help us managing and developing the gardening areas presented above.

If you're an experienced gardener happy to share your skills and knowledge with others and ready to get on with daily gardening task, this opportunity might be the right one for you.

If you don't have any or too much gardening experience but you are interested in the topic, willing to learn and ready to potter around, get it touch and we'll be happy to teach you the ropes.

Horticultural qualification and/or experience in gardening would be an advantage. However we are welcoming beginners and happy to train them on the site.

3. What you will be doing as an Gardening Volunteer:

Gardening Volunteer Role covers a range of tasks specific to the site and season. You'll have the opportunity to work as part of team alongside other volunteers as well as independently.

Based on your experience, availability and interests you will be able to deliver a variety of tasks as follow:

- General garden maintenance: trimming, coppicing, mowing, digging raised beds, weeding, fixing raised beds, fencing
- Sowing seeds across the year to maintain a succession of plants
- Watering and feeding plants

- Transplanting plants, repotting
- Cultivation (looking after the plant throughout the seasons)
- Propagation and division (taking cuttings, collecting seeds, separate plants etc)
- Building new raised beds, redesigning beds
- Soil maintenance (digging over, manuring, composting, mulching)
- Harvesting
- Preparing plants for selling or give away
- Composting
- Gardening tools maintenance
- Working with a garden budget (set up a budget, purchasing gardening materials, record income/outcome etc.)
- Gardening admin (keeping a gardening journal, report and record activities, progress, interact with visitors)

4. What skills you need:

- Capacity to work as part of a team and follow instructions.
- Capacity to deliver independent work
- Happy to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Interest in gardening and willing to expand your gardening knowledge and skills
- Reasonable fit (the role will involve physical work, bending, kneeling, stretching, carrying)
- Capacity to report and record activities and progress in written and/or verbal form.
- Gardening/horticultural skills and knowledge would be an advantage

5. What's in it for you:

Gardening volunteer position offers you the opportunity to get involved in hands on activities through which you could learn and expand a variety of gardening skills.

You'll be working alongside other volunteers and have the opportunity to share your skills and learn from others.

A full induction will be provided for you in your first few days. Your volunteer manager will be there to help you and provide you with adequate training to help you fulfil your tasks and objectives.

Specific training, tailored to your needs and interests can be provided for you during your volunteering service as agreed with the volunteer manager.

6. How you can apply:

Are you interested in becoming a Gardening Volunteer? Send us an email to admin@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org and let us know about your experience in the field, your motivation and your availability along with a CV. We'll get in touch with you within a week.

7. Extra information about the position:

- **Location of role:** Woodlands Farm, 331 Shooters Hill, Welling, Kent, DA16 3RP
- **Reports to:** Volunteer Manager
- **Duration of Role:** We welcome short and long term volunteer. No matter if you have only a couple of hours per week, a day or more, we would be happy to have you on board.

- **Availability:** Any day of the week between 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. Trial days are usually on Wednesdays.
- **Age Requirement:** Over 18 years

For more information contact Hannah or Jon at 02083198900 or email at admin@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org