

Guided Walk Assistant

Top Lodge Visitor Centre, Fineshade Woods

Why we want you

We are looking to put on a programme of guided walks and need some help to do so. We are aiming to provide at least one walk per month, and need an assistant to help it all run smoothly.

Working alongside a Guided Walks Leader – who initially will be a paid member of staff – you would assist by being a backmarker, and counting people in and out. You would help to hand out forms at the start of the walk, and evaluation sheets at the end. You would help ensure the group stays together, and assist should there be an incident during the walk. You may also help with route preparation prior to the walk.

Ultimately we are hoping you might become a guided walks leader, but this is optional! It would also depend upon your knowledge of wildlife. If so, we would envisage a period of about 6 months as an assistant before taking on the role of leader.

What's in it for you?

You would meet people from all walks of life and make a difference to their visit to the site. You'd learn about the work of the Forestry Commission, and about the wildlife in this area. If you choose, you would learn the skills necessary to become a guided walks leader.

You would get free parking every time you volunteer.

After an induction you would be given a uniform. You would also have the opportunity to attend training events as they occur. After completing 35 hours service you would get a free annual parking pass (reviewed annually), so that you could visit free of charge at any time.

How much time would you need to give?

It is likely to be no more than two half days per month. A walk would only take up a couple of hours, but there would be route preparation, form photocopying, first aid kit checks and so on to deal with. You are more likely to work from April – October, although winter walks are possible.

What skills would you need?

You should be used to dealing with the public, and good at communicating. Any experience looking after and/or leading groups would be helpful. Also an ability to think on your feet and take control should the situation require it would be useful. Knowledge of wildlife, and enthusiasm for nature and the outdoors would be a real bonus.

How can I apply?

If you are aged 18 or above and would like to volunteer please complete an application form. You can do any of the following:-

Go to www.forestry.gov.uk/england-volunteer and fill in the online registration form

Email volunteering.fineshade@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Once you've applied we may invite you for interview or an informal chat, depending upon your suitability. You will be likely to require a DBS check.

Please note that this is a pilot project, and will be running until the end of May 2015.