



West Coast Wildlife Club Leader/Helper Volunteer - Role Description

About Cumbria Wildlife Trust

As one of 46 independent Wildlife Trusts, we are a local wildlife conservation charity. Cumbria Wildlife Trust cares passionately about wildlife and wild places – we're here to put wildlife back into our land and seascapes to make Cumbria a wilder county with more space for nature. We restore and connect wild places, work with nature to tackle the climate emergency and support people to take local action for wildlife.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the dedication and support from our community of 600 active volunteers, over 1500 members and supporters.

What is a Wildlife Club Leader?

As a Wildlife Club Leader, you will be a key player in Cumbria Wildlife Trust's work with young people. You will have the opportunity to engage with children in nature, share your passions and help to shape their learning and understanding about the environment through running short, regular wildlife sessions. Tasks will include planning and delivering sessions, organising resources and making sure sessions are run safely. It will require some time between sessions in order to prepare. This role can be extremely rewarding for you, with the option of focusing sessions on those aspects of nature you think are particularly special. It is likely you will need a first aid certificate.

What is a Wildlife Club Helper?

As a Wildlife Club Helper, you will support the leader to run the sessions, making sure children are safe and involved. You will be part of the team delivering the sessions but less or no preparation will be required in between sessions.

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team at Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Getting out and about in nature
- Health and wellbeing benefits
- Passing on your wildlife knowledge and enthusiasm to our next generation environmentalists

- Learning new conservation, administration and skills that will help your future career/learning opportunities
- Access to support and resources from Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Materials and training will be provided. Helpers will also support you with planning, preparation, delivering and administration of activities

What's involved?

As a Wildlife Watch Leader you will:

- Publicise the presence of the group to local children, young people and their families
- Plan and organise a fun programme of activities throughout the year with, and for, the group, using themes relevant to Cumbria Wildlife Trust. You will deliver regular, hands on, informal outdoor activities, enabling young people to explore the wildlife around them more closely
- Adopt guidelines to assist you in running safe and enjoyable meetings. These include safeguarding, H&S, risk assessments and participation registration
- Keep in regular contact with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, young people and their families
- Support young people, celebrating their activities and achievements

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves wildlife and wants to make a real difference in their local community. It would especially suit those who:

- Are keen and confident working with young people
- Have a natural enthusiasm for wildlife and nature of Cumbria (You DON'T need to be an expert)
- Are full of creative and fun activity ideas
- Are willing to learn how to organise and plan the leadership of safe sessions
- Able to work well with other volunteers and share tasks as a team
- Eager to have a real impact to support our next generation environmentalists
- Enjoy working in an outdoor environment (in all weathers!)
- Able to commit long-term to support the development of the group

Previous experience and knowledge of nature conservation and wildlife is far less important than an empathy with young people and the ability to interest them in fun ways to investigate their surroundings. However, being a Wildlife Club Leader or Helper does involve commitment and responsibility for the safety and well-being of all group members.

Extra information

Your place	West Coast Cumbria
Time commitment	Generally one hour per week during term time to run the session
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft Tel no: 07436 657653 volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Training/Resources	Volunteer handbook and Trust induction. Safeguarding training will be provided for you. Volunteers are able to receive travel expenses of 0.45p per mile agreed in advanced with their staff contact. First aid training will be an option for volunteer leaders.
Other Requirements	The Trust will apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for volunteers undertaking this role because it involves working with children and young people or vulnerable adults.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract.