

Countryside Skills Support Volunteer

When: Half day sessions either in the morning or afternoon.

Session times are approximately: 09.45am-12.15pm or 12.45pm-3.15pm

Where: The Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ

What does the role involve?

Supporting a member of Earth Trust education team

• Setting up before a session and packing away after

Supporting young people to complete the session activity

What attitudes, skills and experience do I need?

- A love of the outdoors
- Willing to turn your hand to any task
- Patience and a sense of humour
- For some sessions physical fitness is required
- Experience of working with young people advantageous
- Experience of working with young people with disabilities (including autism) advantageous

Why Earth Trust needs you:

Following a turbulent year for all, Earth Trust has restarted the face-to-face delivery of our Countryside Skills programme to offer much-needed support to children. The course is aimed at secondary age students and is ideal for pupils who find the traditional academic environment challenging and would benefit from all of the advantages that outdoor learning can offer. Students gain a vast range of skills, but also a wealth of experience and confidence which filters through to the rest of their school and personal lives, and can push them on to achieve more in further education.

We work with a number of mainstream and Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools who travel to our place at Little Wittenham once a week during the school term for a half-day session. The sessions are run by an Earth Trust staff member and supported by teachers and teaching support from the school attending. A volunteer would support and assist the Earth Trust member of staff and build relationships with the school staff and children. This is a rewarding role where you can match your love of people with your love of the outdoors.

What's in it for you?

Experience of working with children in an outdoor environment away from the standard classroom environment. Building a relationship with different members of the team and the students that attend. Learn about how the outdoors and associated practical, hands-on skills can help to build personal confidence and knowledge of the world around us.

How Earth Trust will support you:

You will always be with the Earth Trust member of staff leading the group. You will not be expected to lead or plan sessions or be left on your own with an individual or group.

To apply or find out more information:

For more information please contact Nicola Williams, Volunteer Officer on 01865 407 792 or email <u>Nicola.Williams@earthtrust.org.uk</u>

You can find out more about the sessions on our website: www.earthtrust.org.uk/news/what-is-countryside-skills/