

Education Team Volunteer

Working with: The Education Officer and other Education team volunteers

The picturesque setting of the Yorkshire Arboretum is the ideal place for a school trip, where many of the requirements of the National Curriculum can be met through a fun and exciting day out. Schools can book a range of age-appropriate outdoor activities covering Science, PE, Literacy and Geography. These are led by the Education Officer supported by Education Team Volunteers.

What would I do?

- Support the Education Officer in providing stimulating learning and activity sessions for schools and other youth groups
- Assist the children with practical activities with particular regard to their safety
- Help with producing and maintaining educational resources, materials and equipment
- After training, some volunteers move on to leading activity sessions while others prefer to continue as assistants
- Occasionally represent the arboretum at conferences and exhibitions

What skills and experience do I need?

- Experience of working with children, perhaps as a teacher, is useful but not necessary as long as you have the enthusiasm and patience to help children of all ages get the most from their visit
- We are hoping to expand the number of visits from secondary schools so experience of working with older children would be very useful
- If you have particular skills in a relevant subject e.g. biology, entomology, art – we can find a way to make use of them!
- You will need to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which will be organised by your team leader

Where would I work?

- All school visit activities take place outdoors and whatever the weather, so you will need to be happy working in sunshine, rain and cold weather and provide your own suitable clothing and footwear

KEW AND CASTLE HOWARD

- A certain amount of walking sometimes over rough, muddy or hilly ground is involved
- Some activities take place away from the arboretum at other outdoor sites. If you volunteer to help with these then travel expenses will be paid

How much time would I need to give?

- The Education Officer will provide a diary of school visits and you can sign up for as many or as few as you like. Most schools arrive around 10am, stay for a picnic lunch and leave mid-afternoon
- Most visits are during term-time though there are also some activities during the school holidays and occasionally at weekends

What training would I be given?

- You will train 'on the job' by shadowing the Education Officer and experienced volunteers to learn about the different activities on offer.

I'm interested! How do I apply?

Please contact volunteer@yorkshirearboretum.org telling us a little about yourself, why you are interested in this role and any relevant skills and experience you have. Please include a telephone number(s) so we can contact you.

If you do not have access to email please telephone the arboretum on 01653 648598 and leave a brief message letting us know which role you're interested in, together with your telephone number, and we'll call you back.