

Ray Wood Volunteer

Working with: Ray Wood Volunteer Coordinator and regular volunteers

Ray Wood is a 10 ha woodland garden within the Castle Howard grounds managed by the Yorkshire Arboretum. The wood is a spectacle throughout the seasons with its brilliant woodland plant collection from around the world, nestled under a native woodland canopy. The Ray Wood Team work to restore the woodland and collection towards its previous glory.

What would I do?

The work tends to vary from person to person according to their physical ability, skills and to a certain extent preference. The regular tasks around the site consist of:

- Gardening work including removing coarse weeds and dead wood
- Pruning the woody plant collection
- Path and fence construction, maintenance
- Clearing brash and breaking down felled canopy trees
- Monitoring and stock checking the plant collection and its records

What skills and experience do I need?

- An enthusiasm for practical outdoor work
- Experience in gardening would be helpful but is not required
- Willingness to work under the guidance of the team leader alongside fellow volunteers
- The work is physical but different levels of strength and agility can be accommodated
- All the tools and equipment you need will be provided

Where would I work?

You will be working outdoors anywhere within Ray Wood in a variety of weathers so you will need to provide suitable outdoor clothing and stout waterproof footwear with toe protection.

How much time would I need to give?

- There are two teams of regular volunteers in Ray Wood working weekly. One meets on a Tuesday and one on a Thursday and new volunteers can join either team.

KEW AND CASTLE HOWARD

- We meet at 09:30 and the majority of the team work until 16:00 with a tea and lunch break.

What training would I be given?

- At the start of each session your team leader will outline the plans for the day and check that everyone has the necessary skills and confidence for the work involved
- Experienced staff and volunteers will share tips with you and help you learn more about the trees and plants you will be working amongst
- You will be guided to develop your skills and efficiency for the tasks undertaken
- The Ray Wood team takes a tour of the woods twice a year to learn a little more about collections history, interesting information on the plants and the ongoing work.

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.