



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

ROLE – Wildlife Watch Leader

Based location

Various locations across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Purpose of role

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust and is one of the UK's leading wildlife clubs for young environmentalists. Children aged 8-12 can take part in wildlife projects by getting involved with Wildlife Watch groups and join as subscribing members of the Trust to receive magazines and posters.

There are 20 Wildlife Watch groups across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire as well as 3 Greenwatch groups for young people aged 13-18 and 1 Little Bugs Club for pre-school aged children. Each Watch group is run by at least two fully registered Wildlife Watch leaders.

We are currently looking for volunteers who would like to register as Watch leaders for our dynamic and exciting Wildlife Watch groups.

Type of work

Watch leaders are responsible for creating factual, informal and fun ways to investigate our local wildlife and surroundings. Watch leaders work together to plan and deliver an exciting and inspiring programme of Wildlife Watch meetings for children. During Watch sessions the group focuses on all aspects of UK wildlife and the groups are also encouraged to look at wider environmental issues. The type of activities may include bug hunting (sweep netting, tree shaking and log rolling), pond dipping, mammal tracking, arts and crafts, surveying and lots more. Often groups participate in national wildlife projects.

It is vital that Watch leaders run safe and enjoyable meetings and adhere to strict child welfare and health and safety procedures.

Watch leaders are required to help in the promotion of their own group to children living in the local area. Watch leaders are also responsible for promoting Watch membership by making group members and their families aware that the Wildlife Trust is a membership organisation.

Experience/qualifications needed

You will have an interest and enthusiasm for wildlife and working with children. It is essential that you have a sense of responsibility and discipline. You will also need to complete an enhanced DBS check and provide details of two referees. You will have strong communication skills, sound judgement and a mature, pragmatic and flexible approach.

Time/days per week

Meeting times and dates vary according to each group, however most meet once a month during a weekday evening or at the weekend. Sessions are between 1.5 and 2 hours long. Planning and preparation time is also required, which is usually around 2 hours per month.

Benefits

As a registered leader you will have free access to the Trust's Wildlife Training Workshops, first aid training and an annual conference as well as receiving a leaders' manual and activity pack. You will have the support of the Wildlife Watch Officer and access to the numerous resources on the leaders' section of the Wildlife Watch website. You will receive health and safety and child welfare training as well as any other training required.

Line manager

Amanda Brookes
Wildlife Watch Officer