

Learning Assistant - Caithness and Sutherland

Region: North Scotland
Role Type: Learning Assistant
Places available: Multiple (volunteer pool)

Where: Forsinard Flows Nature Reserve and elsewhere in Caithness and Sutherland

When: All year
Commitment: Variable, timing subject to schools availability
Duration: Ongoing

Why We Want You: We are looking for a number of voluntary Learning Assistants to help deliver the Flow Country for Schools learning programme at Forsinard Flows National Nature Reserve and schools in Caithness or Sutherland. The newly built field centre at the reserve (to be completed) provides indoor education facilities for visiting schools.

The Flow Country for Schools aims to inspire, engage and enthuse young people to learn more about the Flow Country peatlands, including their value as a carbon store and the need for conservation.

As a Learning Assistant you would assist the Flows to the Future Project's Learning Officer with planning and delivery of outdoor and indoor learning sessions at RSPB's Forsinard Flows National Nature Reserve and at schools – either in class or at nearby peatlands.

We would like you to provide young people with positive first-hand experiences of the natural world, through field teaching as well as classroom activities. We would also like you to help with preparation and adaptation of materials and equipment.

What's In It For You: This is a great opportunity for you to gain further experience in environmental education and field teaching. Working with young people can be extremely rewarding. All of our activities are fun, exciting and engaging. Working with different groups also means an activity will never run the same twice.

You will learn what it takes to prepare, deliver and follow-up learning activities, both indoors and outdoors. You will also gain experience in problem solving as things do not always go according to plan.

You will be working with both primary and secondary schools, as well as young people in other settings such as youth groups. We will provide formal and informal training appropriate to the role, such as in child safety and welfare, risk assessment, and health

and safety. Necessary agreed expenses will be re-imbursed.

Requirements:

You will need to be at least 18 yrs old.

You will need to arrange your own transport to and from Forsinard. Rail services are in place from Wick/Thurso as well as from Helmsdale. For events happening at schools, we could meet you there or pick you up if you are on route.

Showing a friendly and engaging personality and good communication skills are essential for this role. The ability to demonstrate initiative and organisational skills would be useful. This role would suit anyone who enjoys working with young people, and shows enthusiasm for the environment. Having some knowledge of the local landscape would be a bonus.

The ability to work outdoors in a remote area and as part of a small, flexible team is essential.

Notes:

It is possible to combine this volunteer role with the role of volunteer Schools Outreach Assistant and we would encourage you to apply for both.

This volunteer opportunity is part of the Peatlands Partnership's Flows to the Future Project which runs until September 2019. More information about the project can be found at <http://www.theflowcountry.org.uk>.

In line with the RSPB Child Safety & Welfare Policy, all applicants are subject to a PVG Scheme registration check from the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS). References will also be taken up.

*The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing - help us keep it that way. Click here to join today www.RSPB.org.uk/join
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654*

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