

Volunteer Shadow Ranger

Moors Valley Recreation Role

Country	England
Location	Moors Valley Country Park Horton Rd, Ashley Heath, Ringwood BH24 2ET
Position Type	1-2 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	7 th July 2024

Background Information

Forestry England are the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

South Forest District manages 46,000ha of land across West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and South Wiltshire. The District is at the hub of some of the most highly populated parts of the country and the nation's forests here deliver a significant range of public benefits from a diverse range of places and activities. Over 60% of our land is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and over 70% of our land lies within protected landscapes - National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We therefore manage some nationally prized places which are a unique blend of forest and rare open habitats. We host over 20 million day visits to our forests every year who enjoy a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation, from the more formal facilities at our visitor centres of Moors Valley and Alice Holt, to simple pleasures of walking in the sanctuary of their local woodland. Delivering multi-purpose objectives across these heavily designated and heavily used landscapes has it challenges, but we have an inspired team who take great satisfaction in delivering high quality land management and memorable experiences for our visitors.

We are proud to be able to offer Shadow Ranger volunteer opportunities for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in conservation, community engagement, recreation, site management and working with volunteers and the public.

This position is for one Shadow Ranger to be based at Moors Valley Country Park.

Shadow Volunteers

The successful applicant will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing the Recreation teams at Moors Valley Country Park and wider woodlands across East Dorset. They will develop on the job skills including recreation management, practical site management, working with volunteers, contributing to the delivery of events and activities, and working alongside a variety of partners and stakeholders.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from the experienced member of staff being shadowed, along with gaining knowledge from wider colleagues.
- Guidance and support in applying for further training or employment opportunities.
- Genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.
- Volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.
- Volunteer uniform.
- Formal training opportunities - first aid and manual handling.

Purpose

To Work as part of the team to deliver key Forestry England messages through recreation and visitor services. Gain experience in a range of tasks, activities, and procedures that rangers undertake daily within their role not only at a busy forest centre, but in woodlands. These include trail and facility inspections, visitor engagement, community engagement, working with and leading volunteers, keeping visitor areas tidy and well maintained and practical site management.

The successful applicant will contribute to the delivery of a high-quality visitor experience, learn how to connect the community with their local forest, while balancing high recreation pressure with the protection of the natural environment.

This role would suit someone seeking hands on experience for a career in the environmental sector, visitor services, countryside ranger, community work, environmental or outdoor education.

Key work areas

Increase our value for money, and maximise opportunities to increase income

- Provide face to face customer service at peak times giving advice and information to visitors as well as selling Forestry England Memberships and leaflets.
- Assist in the carpark to ensure visitors are arriving and leaving in a safe and orderly manor, while being able to maximise visitor numbers.

Provide a built estate that is fit for purpose for all users

Shadow Volunteers

- Carry out facility and trail inspections and ensure that defects are properly recorded and rectified in a timely manner.
- Assist in the maintenance of recreation facilities including, but not limited to, litter picking, bin emptying, dealing with fly tipping, installation and maintenance of signs, vegetation management, trail maintenance.

Embed a safety-first culture in our teams

- Input incidents and accidents into our online accident reporting system, collating all relevant information.
- Ensure personal safety at all times by following job risk assessments and by carrying out PPE and safety checks, in compliance with policy guidance.

Increase our capacity and effectiveness through partnership working

- Maintain good relationships with on-site businesses including Café, Go Ape, Bike Shop and Bike hire.
- Support the recreation team on event delivery by both Forestry England and third parties, to include monitoring of authorised permissions.
- Support in management of volunteer groups on site

The key work areas detailed are the typical duties expected of the role but are not an exhaustive list. The post holder may be reasonably requested to undertake other duties by their manager.

Person Specification

Read this section carefully as it will help you complete the online application form.

We are not expecting you to have qualifications or previous experience in the environment sector. The Shadow Volunteer program is about giving you that experience. We are looking for enthusiasm, curiosity, ability to listen and learn, ask questions, show initiative and show responsibility for the people and environment where you work.

The application form will ask you questions based on the person specifications below. You don't need to give examples related to the environment sector or forestry. They can be relevant examples from other experiences you have had.

Experience

Essential

An interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, or recreation.

Desirable

Shadow Volunteers

Experience of taking part in or managing an environmental, educational or community project or activity through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.
Seeking a career in the environmental sector; countryside ranger, environmental or visitor services management.

Working with Other People

Essential

Be approachable, open, polite, and helpful to others.
Respect diverse backgrounds, views, and approaches.
Willingness to work as part of a team as well as the ability to work on your own.

Desirable

Willingness and enthusiastic to lead groups and activities.

Communication

Essential

Ability to listen and communicate with people from a variety of age groups, abilities, behaviours, and backgrounds.

Desirable

Ability to deal with difficult situations with tact, diplomacy and in a constructive manner.

Deliver Results

Essential

Motivated and capable of working under own initiative.
Prioritise and organise your time and resources effectively to meet agreed deadlines and objectives.

Desirable

Able to deliver a result for others or personal goal

Learn and Apply

Essential

Shadow Volunteers

Listen to and observe your mentor and rest of the team, demonstrate willing to learn and repeat tasks to build experience.

Be open to change and show a willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop new skills and confidence.

Desirable

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes, and constructive feedback and apply what you have learnt

Other

Able and willing to work 1-2 days per week, predominantly weekdays although may occasionally include evenings and weekend working.

This post may require you to hold and continue to hold, a full current driving licence. Duties will require you to be fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. However, Forestry England is willing to consider any proposal put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the role by other means. This role will require a DBS check.

How to apply

Please apply online by completing the [application form](#) on the website.

Make sure when applying you type **Moors Valley Recreation Role** as the role which you are interested in. For the Forest, please type in and select **Moors Valley Country Park and Forest Centre**.

If you are interested in multiple roles, you will need to complete multiple applications. You can, however, use the same information and answers for each so feel free to copy the information from one to the other, if you are happy this is correct.

If you have any problems with the application or questions please email victoria.tofte@forestryengland.uk and state which opportunity you wish to apply for and what your requirements are to enable you to apply.

If you consider yourself to have a disability the application form will asked you to provide details of any support you may need or reasonable adjustments we can make to enable you to fulfil the role (as outlined in the role description for the placement you are interested in). If you are selected for a Shadow Volunteer role based on your skills and experience this will allow us to assess whether support can be safely and practically put in place or whether other alternative solutions are a possibility, in discussion with you.

Closing date for applications: 7th July 2024
Interviews: Between the 22nd July and 9th August 2024
Induction day: 3rd September 2024