



Discover Den Volunteer Co-ordinators

Overview of the role

The National Trust is committed to helping people of all ages enjoy, learn from and develop meaningful connections to the properties and green spaces in its care.

In April 2012 the Trust launched its nation-wide programme *50 things to do before you're 11 ¾* and since then it's been going from strength to strength. This year at Lacock Abbey we're offering two temporary volunteer posts to help engage families with our beautiful grounds.

It's a fabulous opportunity to help develop activities, supervise volunteers and, above all enjoy the *50 things* discovery den at a very special place this summer.

What's in it for you?

- A chance to gain hands-on experience at a busy National Trust property
- Full support from the Visitor Experience team
- Practical experience helping to design and deliver family activities
- Insight into an informal learning and activities project
- Expanding your experience of working with different audiences
- An opportunity to develop new skills
- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meeting people from all walks of life and making new friends
- Enjoying new experiences and being in a lovely environment
- An opportunity to gain an understanding of the work of the Trust

What's involved?

- Working as a team of two Discovery Den Volunteer Co-ordinators.
- Getting to know Lacock and our team plus the national *50 things* programme.
- Design and deliver family activities connected with the programme.
- Visit other National Trust properties to find out how *50 things* is run elsewhere.
- Develop and implement an evaluation strategy to measure the success of the discovery den.
- Lead a team of three volunteers a day in the delivery of activities in the discovery den.

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- Act as the point of contact between the discovery den, visitor reception and the rest of the property.
- Help with the administration of the *50 things* discovery den (risk assessments, activity plans, volunteer co-ordination, sourcing equipment and materials).
- Maintain good working relationships with property staff and other volunteers
- Becoming familiar with and then following the National Trust's Health and Safety Policy at all times.
- Giving any other appropriate assistance in relation to the project/role as may be reasonably requested

This role will suit people who... are passionate about making our gardens and historic places engaging and accessible to everyone. You enjoy or are looking to gain experience working with families and develop the skills needed to organise and deliver successful activities program.

You will have a good understanding of the value of family learning in a heritage environment and enjoy being hands on. A creative thinker, you will feel comfortable with a glue stick and be happy to get your hands dirty. You will feel confident engaging with the public, especially with children.

You will enjoy working as part of a team but will also be self-motivated - keen to develop your own ideas and achieve results. You will enjoy problem-solving, thinking creatively, with good IT and word-processing skill and an eye for design.

Extra information

Location: Lacock Abbey, Lacock, Wiltshire, SN15 2LG

Time commitment: 22.5 hours a week spread across three weekdays (9.30 – 5)

Anticipated length of volunteering opportunity : mid-June – end August 2015.

Training/Resources: As part of your induction you will receive training to help equip you for your role. Throughout your volunteering you will have the opportunity to develop your skills, and review your personal development with your line manager. You will also have the opportunity to find out more about the National Trust during your time with us.

Expenses: Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid. Some other reasonable expenses may be considered.

To apply: Please send a CV and brief covering letter to rachael.holtom@nationaltrust.org.uk by 14 May 2015. There will be an informal interview.

About the National Trust

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National Trust is a registered charity and is completely independent of Government. We rely for income on membership fees, donations and legacies, and money raised from our commercial operations. We are supported by 3.7 million members and 61,000 volunteers without whom we simply could not manage. We protect and open to the public over 300 historic houses and gardens and 49 industrial monuments and mills. But it doesn't stop there. We also look after forests, woods, fens, beaches, farmland, downs, moorland, islands, archaeological remains, castles, nature reserves, villages – for places, for ever, for everyone.

About Lacock Abbey

Our special place, Lacock, consists of four different elements; the medieval cloisters, the family home that was built on top of them, the Fox Talbot Museum and the grounds that link all of these together. Lacock village is a popular attraction in its own right, a beautiful traditional Cotswold style village, virtually unchanged for centuries.

Lacock Abbey was founded by Ela, Countess of Salisbury, in 1232 and remained a nunnery for Augustinian Canonesses until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539.

It was then sold by Henry VIII to a private owner, William Sharington, who converted the property to a private house, but retained the cloisters and several mediaeval rooms. Subsequent generations have all made their mark on the abbey, which has an interesting and attractive mix of architectural styles.

One of Sharington's descendants was William Henry Fox Talbot, who invented the photographic negative at the abbey. The Fox Talbot Museum commemorates Talbot's life and achievements, while his interests in botany are celebrated in the Botanic Garden. This forms part of the largely informal 9 acres of grounds surrounding the abbey, which also include a small rose garden, orchard and decorative beds and borders.

Lacock is a busy property, with around 160K visitors per year to the abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and grounds, and a further 250K to the village of Lacock, its car parks and public areas.

All members of our team, staff and volunteers have a vital role in ensuring that each visitor gets a warm and personal welcome.

Compiled by: Rachael Holtom

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