

Volunteer Ranger – Balmacara Estate Volunteer Role Description

Directorate: Operations/Highlands & Islands	
Volunteer Manager: Iain Turnbull – Property Manager	
Suggested Time Commitment: Flexible: up to 40 hours / week Generally in normal working hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)	
Type of role: Fixed term, 4-6 months (negotiable)	

Why do you need me?

We need you to help the NTS engage with visitors and the local community to enhance and benefit the biodiversity of the area. You will help us to inspire others to become involved in our work and to benefit from our commitment to excellence, sustainability and promoting and supporting the crofting community.

What's included in the role?

- Promoting and supporting the crofting system on the estate
- Assisting with the conservation of native woodland and species-rich grasslands
- Assisting with survey and monitoring programmes
- Management of footpaths and other access infrastructure
- Providing an excellent visitor experience including delivery of guided walks, events and educational activities
- Helping to promote the work of the Trust at Balmacara and the benefits of membership.

Why should I volunteer in this role?

- This position offers a great opportunity for you to gain valuable experience and skills in a wide range of activities relating to the management and conservation of countryside and heritage and will provide you with an excellent opportunity to build your CV and hopefully to secure paid employment within this field within NTS or elsewhere.
- You will have the opportunity to live and work in one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland while gaining invaluable experience and training in a wide range of practical environmental management activities.

- You will have the opportunity to develop specific areas of interest and develop your communications, management and planning skills.
- Trust volunteers can attend special events such as training sessions and are recognised for their work through our national 'thank you' programmes.

Who will I be working with?

Generally, you'll be working with a small team of staff, and occasionally other volunteers. There may also be opportunities to work from time to time at other NTS properties. If you need help while volunteering, your volunteer manager or another appointed person will also be around to assist.

Do I need any previous experience for this role?

In general, you don't need any specific experience or qualifications to volunteer with us. However, we normally like to see volunteers having some relevant education and/or practical experience and a broad general understanding of the nature of the type of work that may be involved, especially working outdoors in variable weather conditions.

For this role, we're looking for someone who is enthusiastic about the work of the Trust, passionate about its values and objectives, and:

- Conservation. You'll be committed to countryside management and conservation and keen to play your part in protecting our important habitats and species and historic sites
- Public facing: happy to engage with people of all ages and backgrounds. You'll be able to provide clear and helpful information to our visitors and ensure they all have a great experience
- Back of house / office: is organised and can work well in a busy team. [
- Computer: It will be helpful if you have a good grasp of Microsoft Office and be able to use programs like Word, Excel and Outlook, and social media

We'll provide an induction and training for you (all about the Trust, its values and your role) to get started, and we'll help you keep learning while you're volunteering with us. This includes free access to all of the courses in our online e-learning system. While we may not be able to provide certificated training we will work with you to identify your particular areas of interest and seek ways to ensure that you can develop your skills accordingly.

Who can volunteer with the Trust?

We have an Equality and Diversity policy, and our volunteering opportunities are open to anyone to apply. After you apply, we'll get in touch to arrange an informal chat with you, to help you understand a bit more about the role and see if it's right for you.

What if I need some extra help to volunteer?

Most of our volunteer roles are flexible and can be tailored to meet your needs. Our volunteer managers will be happy to discuss any help that you might need to volunteer, including adapting the role or assisting with volunteer expenses, when you first meet up.

Will you carry out any checks before I can start this role?

As this role may involve working with community groups and individuals in an educational and visitor management context, we will need to carry out a criminal records check before you start – in this case, a Protection of Vulnerable Groups check.

What's the next step?

You can apply online now for this role through our website application portal or by contacting the Balmacara Estate Office directly at Balmacara@nts.org.uk.

If you would like some extra information before applying, you can contact Iain Turnbull, Property Manager – Balmacara Estate by email at iturnbull@nts.org.uk or by phone on 01599-566325.

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