

**Role Description**

**Play Engagement Volunteer –**

**The Hive, Moss Bank Park**

**About the Lancashire Wildlife Trust**

We are part of the Wildlife Trusts movement, the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to all wildlife. We are your local charity, working hard to improve your local area for wildlife and for you. The Trust manages over 2,000 acres of some of the region's most precious wild places in the form of 37 nature reserves and 20 Local Nature Reserves. These provide places where wildlife can thrive and people can relax and enjoy the wealth of our natural heritage.

**About the Role/Project**

Moss Bank Park and in particular The Hive, is a magical escape for families. Together a series of unique gardens, outdoor spaces, park features and café set in 84 acres of green space, makes the park one of the best in Bolton. We are able to encourage further visitors thanks to a funding bid supporting further volunteer participation and the opportunity to create wider engagement roles.

**What is a Play Engagement Volunteer?**

This is a ‘hand’s on’ role, engaging with younger children and their families that visit the Hive, ensuring that everyone is made to feel welcome. You will assist in creating a safe space for children to explore the outdoors and embrace natural play, making sure equipment is used safely, or found in the right place. Families use the site in a self-guided capacity but you will encourage participation with specific activities, so they get the most from their visit. This is an important role enhancing the site and encourage greater involvement with the Trust.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Be part of a fun and friendly team gaining experience at one of Bolton’s flagship parks, whilst furthering your knowledge with families and outdoor activities.
* This is an opportunity to get a change of scenery and fresh air whilst connecting with others after being ‘stuck in’ for what feels like a long time.
* Spend time doing something you enjoy, being part of an exciting and rewarding day.
* Share understanding, learn or have a go at something new/take part in training.
* Feel good factor from giving your time/being involved, plus satisfaction engaging children in an outdoor setting.
* Gain confidence and have social interactions with a wide range of people.
* In addition, you will gain experience that can support you in other areas of life, such as combatting loneliness, future career.
* An opportunity to attend seasonal volunteer outdoor gatherings and 20% discount at Cotswold.

**What’s involved?**

In addition to making sure natural play equipment is being used correctly, you will need to keep things orderly making sure items can be found by visitors. Some time will be spent walking around the different play spaces, whilst at other times you will lead on activity ideas, such as simple bushcraft like fire lighting/marshmallow toasting and den building, plus a campfire story and bug hunting/ID. There will be opportunities for you to instigate fun outdoor activities that you know children enjoy, instilling a love with nature and the outdoors. You’ll be expected to follow organisation safeguarding procedures.

**This role will suit people who;**

This may appeal to students, nature enthusiasts, someone who is used to children, or want’s experience with children in an outdoor setting, or some budding outdoor activity enthusiasts. A strong ability to communicate with young children and support adults. Must enjoy setting simple outdoor play activities. Willing to try new ideas as well as some of the old favourites. Need to be fine with getting hand’s dirty, dealing with earth, creatures and nature. A big personality confident at speaking with small groups of people and a general love of the outdoors. Time keeping and reliability are also essential as well as thinking on your feet.

**Extra information**

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| **Your place** | The Hive behind the cafe, Moss Bank Park, Bolton. |
| **Time commitment** | Open Wed-Sunday - up to 4 hours per week on your chosen day,  but also 2 x Sat or Sun opportunities twice a month for those who could not do every week. |
| **Volunteer**  **Co-ordinator** | Charlotte Yates  [cyates@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:cyates@lancswt.org.uk)  07596 888335 |
| **Training/Resources** | LWT Volunteer Induction  Role specific training/shadowing  Access to LWT learning opportunities and Volunteer Conference  Eligible to apply for internal vacancies (once induction has been completed) |
| **Expenses** | Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid up to a maximum of £5 per day |
| **Requirements** | Completion of Volunteer Registration Form  Informal Interview and Two references  Complete initial induction and relevant further training. |

**This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract.**