Community Engagement Assistant Placement – Bog Meadows Nature Reserve 2027-2028

Responsible to: Bog Meadows Community Engagement Officer

Role Duration: One Full-time role available. **Please note this is a voluntary placement.** Training and travel expenses to Ulster Wildlife Offices/Bog Meadows Nature Reserve will be provided with a daily mileage cap of 30 miles round trip @ 55p per mile.

Background

'Our People, Our Places' is our exciting community engagement project where we work to create a vibrant community hub centred around Bog Meadows Nature Reserve and neighbouring St. James Community Farm.

The project helps strengthen social networks, develop skills and build community capacity by offering traineeships and a range of volunteering events and education programmes based around nature, conservation and gardening. We would love a student to help us deliver on this project. The work through the year is varied and is an ideal opportunity for participants to gain first-hand experience of working in the conservation sector and gaining valuable community engagement and communication skills. Have the chance to inspire young people to become interested and passionate about the natural environment on their doorstep, develop and lead on your own events and help with existing group projects that regularly visit the site.







Purpose of role:

The role of the placement student will be to assist in the delivery of community work activities working alongside Ulster Wildlife project officers at Bog Meadows Nature Reserve.
This role will require the placement student to support the Community Engagement Team in a range of hands-on practical conservation activities and techniques. Some office-based work will also be required for planning and preparation.

Main responsibilities:

- Assist with delivery of monthly Children's Wildlife Watch Group, Meadow Ladies Group and Wildlife Gardening Group at Bog Meadows
- Take part in weekly practical volunteering sessions at Bog Meadows Nature Reserve
- Assist with other Youth and Community or Nature Reserves

work as required with the team.

- Carry out a range of practical conservation activities on nature reserves in conjunction with the nature reserves team.
- The safe use and maintenance of nature reserves tools and equipment – this will include hand-tools and machinery.
- Assist in carry out health & safety recording and reporting e.g. the production and review of risk assessments and site safety checks.
- Assisting in biological surveying and monitoring across the Bog Meadows Nature Reserve: including botanical monitoring, habitat mapping, camera-trapping, bird and invertebrate surveys.
- Opportunities will exist to work with other projects within the Ulster Wildlife e.g. education, oyster restoration, priority species work, peatlands or fund-raising activities.



Skills required:

- Undertaking an Environmental Sciences / Ecology/Youth and Community Work degree or similar.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent team worker.
- Motivated and able to work without supervision.
- Passionate about nature conservation.
- The ability to work outdoors in all seasons, on a variety of terrains, learning skills in a 'hands-on', practical manner.
- Ability to work occasional weekend and evenings.

We do not require practical conservation skills we are happy to teach these and provide training qualifications. However, we do require that the student has a willingness to learn and is proactive about their own self development

Desirable skills:

- Experience of community engagement work
- Experience of wildlife surveying and monitoring.
- Use of a car/driving licence preferable but not essential

Access Ni Check: Due to the nature of this placement, an Access NI check will be required prior to commencement of placement activity.

Placement location: Bog Meadows Nature Reserve, Milltown Row, Belfast and Ulster Wildlife Offices, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE. Field work will be carried out at a range of locations across Northern Ireland.

Please send a CV and cover letter to volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org by 5pm on Friday 29th January 2027.