Young, Wild & Well Nature Education Assistant Student Placement Opportunity 2027-28

Responsible to: Young, Wild & Well project Officer

Role Duration: 8 – 12 months, 3-4 days per week.

Please note this is a voluntary placement. Training and travel expenses to Ulster Wildlife Offices/Bog Meadows Nature Reserve/Outreach sites will be provided with a daily mileage cap of 30 miles round trip @ 55p per mile.

Background:

Ulster Wildlife has a long track-record of working with children, young people and adults engaging them with the natural world. The Young, Wild & Well Project will deliver nature-based wellbeing training to non-specialist staff within Barnardo's and also aims to empower SEND children and young people in and around the Belfast area to connect with nature, improve their health and wellbeing and gain practical skills in outdoor education.

Purpose of role:

The role of the placement student will be to assist in the delivery of youth and community work activities working alongside Ulster Wildlife project officers at Bog Meadows Nature Reserve and other sites and offices. 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.

What you can expect:

- To work alongside Ulster Wildlife staff in developing and delivering nature activity sessions to children and young people with special educational needs.
- Assist in delivery of the AQA course, "Facilitating Nature Based Activities for Wellbeing" to Barnardo's staff, Youth Rangers and young people.
- Avail of courses that will prepare you for a career in nature-based community engagement work.
- Get an opportunity to learn environmental education and community engagement skills and techniques from Ulster Wildlife staff.
- Receive full support from a dedicated line manager, who will develop a training plan based on personal learning needs.
- Opportunities will exist to work with other projects within Ulster Wildlife e.g. education, oyster restoration, priority species work, peatlands or fund-raising activities.

Main responsibilities:

- Assist with preparation for and delivery of nature-based activity sessions and practical nature conservation work.
- Assist with promoting environmental engagement opportunities with youth, school and community groups.
- To ensure compliance with statutory and funding requirements while undertaking duties.
- To take proper care of all equipment and resources and to ensure that these are left safe, tidy, clean and secure when not in use, including buildings.
- To assist with equipment and resources inventories.
- Assist with the delivery of public events and education / youth programmes and any other community engagement activities.
- Comply with all health and safety requirements and report any issues.
- Assist in undertaking a range of health and safety checks for work activities.
- Maintain and update all relevant records as necessary.

- Assist with delivery of other youth and community groups, and contribute to the work of other projects within the Community Engagement Team, as the opportunity arises
- Agree a substantial, themed project with your supervisor which contributes to the work of Ulster Wildlife and will span the duration of the placement e.g. impact of sustained engagement with nature on wellbeing, measuring attitudinal change of young people towards nature, developing and piloting heuristic, play-based nature activities for very young children

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.

Desirable skills:

- Experience of community engagement work
- 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: Ulster Wildlife Offices, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE and Bog Meadows Nature Reserve, Milltown Row, Belfast. 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.