

Volunteering with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust

Volunteers are an important and much appreciated part of the Trust, working with local people in our communities. You can benefit enormously from volunteering with us and as a volunteer you will be able to learn new skills or develop existing ones, socialise with likeminded people and work as part of a team.

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status (charity number SC031247). It is also VAT registered (VAT No 828 8251 03). The Chief Executive is Amanda McFarlane and the Trust is governed by a Board of Directors.

We aim to conserve, preserve and improve the countryside and access for everyone who lives, works and visits Fife.

What's Involved

Volunteering with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust can be wide and varied. It can often depend upon your individual skills, interests and capabilities.

Conservation activities involve the physical management of Fife's countryside and usually involves getting dirty! The range of works can include cutting down trees, planting; hedging work, building and putting up bird and bat boxes; cleaning ponds, maintaining footpaths and litter clean-ups. Usually these jobs need a certain degree of fitness and the use of hand tools - saws and other sharp edged tools. Full instruction in the use of all tools and techniques is given before the start, even if you have used them previously, and appropriate protective clothing, such as gloves and hard hats, are issued. Jobs can be far from a road and can involve a long walk carrying heavy and awkward loads... and it may be raining too!

We also manage the Lomond hills Regional Park and during busy times you could be involved in carrying out patrolling, meeting people and ensuring everybody's safe, dispensing information and guidance and enforcing bylaws.

Another area of volunteering is gathering information vital for us to protect and enhance Fife's countryside. This can include collating new information sometimes working through partnerships with other organisations and groups, adding new species and habitat information for our databases. This may involve surveying in all weathers and at different times to gather the required information. This helps ensure our valuable species and habitats are protected by putting the right information into the right hands.

In all cases the volunteer is, in the first instance, answerable to the Ranger / Project Worker within the area they are working. They must report to that person at the start of the work and must inform them when they leave the site.

Volunteers must comply with all Health and Safety policy and legislation.

Insurance / Health & Safety

Many of the policies and procedures that affect staff of the Trust also apply to volunteers.

The Ranger / Project worker will take every effort to ensure that all health and safety policies are followed and you are properly inducted and supervised to ensure your personal wellbeing.

Volunteers are covered under Public Liability insurance and motor vehicle insurance where applicable. Details of which are given below.

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Public Liability – Encompass Scheme Policy Number RNN669645

Ref: FIFE59CS01

Limit of Indemnity £5,000,000

Employer's Liability – Encompass Scheme Policy Number RNN669645

Ref: FIFE59CS01

Limit of Indemnity - £10,000,000

Vehicle Fleet Insurance = AXA Insurance plc Policy No. YB FLE 1893905

22 vehicles insured (including trailers and quad bike)

Excess = £250 (if driver under 25 years of age excess of £400 applies)

Windscreen excess = £50

All insurances are managed via Keegan and Pennykid, 50 Queen Street, Edinburgh DH2 3NS.

What happens now?

The first stage is to complete the application form and return it to the address noted on the form. Please fill in the application form providing as much information as possible on why you want to volunteer with us. The form can look a bit ominous, but is designed to capture as much information as possible to comply with FCCT's Volunteer policy, ensuring your safety and those with whom you volunteer.

The Volunteer Coordinator will then write to you arranging an informal meeting. Also included will be instruction on any extra documentation you should bring along with you e.g. proof of identity.

Once you have had your meeting and you want to go ahead and join as a volunteer, references will be taken up and an induction will be arranged.

If you want to have an informal chat before completing an application please call 01592 656088 and speak with the Volunteers Co-ordinator.