

Nature buddy – Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC



Remuneration	The role is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.
Location	Parks and open spaces in Hounslow
Time commitment:	Minimum 4 hours / month
Reporting to	Project manager

Role Description

We are a recently formed Community Interest Company looking to develop our influence. We work to advance the education of the public in and through outdoor learning, which we do through a programme of targeted outdoor learning activities.

We have recently been awarded funding for a project entitled "Access to nature for local people" which seeks to work with elderly members of the community in Hounslow at risk of isolation. We are seeking "Nature Buddies" to support the project.

Role Title	Nature Buddy
Location of position	Parks and open spaces in London Borough of Hounslow
Responsible to	Project manager
Purpose/ summary of role	<p>Nature buddies will seek to open a window for older people at risk of isolation who do not currently visit natural outdoor environment. Through the project we want to make them aware of the benefits and opportunities that exist locally. The nature buddies will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regular support to groups during walks and activities in their local parks and open spaces. • Encourage and recruit people to the project who would not normally engage with outdoor environments. • Deliver key messages and promote the benefit of health and well-being, outdoor learning and environmental stewardship within the community. • Eventually they will work closely with a named group and support them. They will be one of a network of Nature Buddies.
Description of tasks	<p>Nature buddies responsibilities could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support to sessions held in parks and open spaces. • Working with groups of older people at risk of isolation to providing encouragement, guidance and support. • Helping groups achieve specific goals identified by the project manager. • Signposting groups to access information and advice relating other opportunities available in parks and open spaces that could benefit their health and well-being e.g. healthy walks programme. • Building trust and companionship to enable the group to engage with activities in a safe and enjoyable environment • Maintaining accurate and legible records • Liaising with and reporting to the project manager on a regular basis • Reporting changes or concerns regarding the service users • Complying with service standards, service specifications, and service boundaries. Recognising the range of policies and procedures that impact on the activity being carried out. • You will not be expected to provide any personal care. • Discussing personal learning and development needs • Attending network meetings of other Nature Buddies

Time Commitment	We are looking for volunteers who are able to meet for 3 hours once or twice a month to attend sessions for at least 12 months. Volunteers must also attend ongoing training and networking sessions once every 3 months.
Skills and Qualifications	<p>No special qualifications or experience needed. We are looking for volunteers who are understanding, patient, empathetic and good at listening. You should be enthusiastic about the benefits of outdoor environments. The role may be suitable if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about, or are willing to learn about, social isolation and its impact on people • Have good verbal communication and listening skills, especially face to face • Are happy working as part of a wider team • Recognise the importance of confidentiality and can show this in practice • Are prepared to undergo an induction into the role and attend necessary training and similar learning activities to help you in your role • Are keen to provide a high standard of service • Have literacy skills • Have the ability to volunteer within project boundaries • Are comfortable following policies, procedures and guidance • Are committed to inclusion, treating people from all backgrounds with dignity • Are comfortable in attending network and training meetings. <p>All volunteers are subject to Disclosure and Barring checks.</p>
Training and Support	<p>You will be given induction training into the various aspects the work.</p> <p>You will receive ongoing training and peer support at regular volunteer meetings.</p>
Reimbursement of expenses	<p>Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasonable transport expenses • light refreshments
Benefits to volunteer	<p>This is a fantastic learning and development opportunity. At the same time you will be helping elderly people at risk of isolation to engage with outdoor spaces and make new friends.</p> <p>If you want to make a difference to someone who needs your support and want to be part of this exciting innovative programme, this is the role for you.</p> <p>This could be an ideal opportunity for someone who wants to gain experience in the social care sector or environmental sector.</p> <p>This is an excellent opportunity for someone with a passion for outdoor environments to develop their skills and to join a small friendly team</p>
Application Procedure	<p>Letter of application</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>DBS Check and References</p>
Contact Information	<p>Frances Bennett</p> <p>020 8401 6837</p> <p>outdoor.learning@outlook.com</p>

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply you need to:

1. Write a Letter of Application (maximum 1000 words) stating the reasons why you have applied for the position. Please include your postal address, your personal contact details and the names and contact details of two referees.
2. We will meet you informally to talk about the project and opportunity.
3. We will shortlist candidates and let you know if we are proceeding with the application, which is dependent on reference and DBS checks.

Completed applications need to be sent by e-mail to: outdoor.learning@outlook.com. All applications will receive an acknowledgement on receipt.

If you have any specific questions call Frances 020 8401 6837 or e-mail outdoor.learning@outlook.com