Brownsea Island Volunteer Role Description

Role Title

Brownsea Island Visitor Engagement Volunteer

Purpose of the Role

- To deliver a welcoming presence to visitors (including families, school groups or societies/clubs)
 to Brownsea Island & representing the Dorset Wildlife Trust.
- To assist the Reserves Assistant and Visitor Engagement Officer in the preparation and running of engagement activities (guided walks, illustrated talks etc)
- Helping to ensure that the Villa, bird hides and public spaces are maintained (i.e. sweeping the hides, tidying up the Villa etc.)
- To encourage visitors to make voluntary donations towards the management of the reserve

Daily tasks volunteers can expect to be involved with;

- Carrying out pre-opening & closing checks in the Villa Visitor Centre
- To lead or assist in engagement activities including guided walks, illustrated talks, wildlife days or seasonal events.
- Engaging visitors to the Reserve, sharing your enthusiasm for the Trust and wildlife, providing advice & information to help them get the most out of their experience.
- Attending volunteer 'briefings' keeping up to date with information about Brownsea.
- Promote the work of Dorset Wildlife Trust.
- Maintaining/tidying the hides

Opportunities for you

- To develop skills in public engagement e.g. public speaking, leading activities, safeguarding, working with diverse groups etc.
- To increase knowledge of wildlife and the island's ecology
- Supporting the work of Dorset Wildlife Trust & building a relationship with the charity
- Networking opportunities within the Wildlife Trusts
- Work in a small, friendly team
- Meet like-minded people and an opportunity to make new friends
- Attend Wildlife Trust run workshops & talks

Support

- Volunteers will receive support and training from the island Reserve Assistant and Visitor Engagement Officer
- Free boat travel to and from the island
- Parking permits provided for use on the day of volunteering

Volunteer Specification

- Good people & communication skills
- Comfortable with public speaking (guided walks, illustrated talks etc)
- Enthusiasm for Brownsea Island & the Dorset Wildlife Trust
- A flexible approach to their role with a can-do attitude
- Reliable and punctual
- Knowledge of natural history, wildlife conservation & wildlife ID

Your Time

• 1 day per week (or as many as you can spare)

