**VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION**

**The role:** Campaigns Researcher

**What they do:** To research ways of expanding the reach of our campaigns through relevant community groups and act as an ambassador for Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

**Who they work with:**  Campaigns Officer

**Time commitment:** 2 – 8 hours a week for 8-12 months

**Where it is based:**  Home based but travel to Bickley Hall Farm, SY14 8EF might be needed

**Our aims**

Nature is facing a threefold crisis with the combined threats of the loss of biodiversity, the climate crisis and people’s disconnect from nature. As part of our new strategy for the next decade, we need to inspire widespread action on every front if we are to help nature recover. To make this happen, 1 in 4 people need to be inspired to do something for the environment – that’s around 600,000 people across our region.

**Our campaigns**

Cheshire Wildlife Trust runs a mix of national and local campaigns designed to secure the changes we need in our society to promote nature’s recovery.

This year alone, we’ve run several big campaigns to influence major national issues including HS2, planning reforms and the Environment Bill. For these campaigns to be effective, we need to be able to rapidly mobilise supporters to respond to consultations, contact MPs and spread the word far and wide.

We also run campaigns that require individuals to take action. Our Action for Insects and Wild about Gardens campaigns focus more on empowering individuals to make change. While these depend on individuals, these campaigns need to be scaled up to engage as many people as possible.

We, therefore, need to form connections and develop contacts with local community groups to help disseminate our campaigns to new audiences. By developing these contacts, we not only have the potential to engage them with campaigns but also inspire self-led initiatives that can help create more wild spaces in our communities.

Our overall aim is to establish an effective local campaigns network able to reach one in four people across the region.

**This role involves:**

* Researching community groups who are likely to be supportive of our campaigns
* Contacting community groups and compiling a list of contacts detailing which campaigns are most likely to appeal to each group
* Using email and social media to communicate campaigns that connect with residents of Cheshire, Wirral, Halton, Warrington, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford
* Informing and signposting communities to our resources and events that could be of use to them
* Supporting our Campaigns Officer in promoting campaigns to engage and motivate people to make a difference for wildlife
* Mobilising groups at flash campaign moments to influence political leaders
* Updating community groups on new campaigns and representing the Trust in a positive and professional manner.
* Researching and identifying key conferences, summits and events for the Campaigns Officer to attend

**This role suits someone who:**

• likes interacting with community groups

• has good networking, verbal and written communication skills

• is reliable, proactive, passionate and able to use initiative

• has a love of social media and regularly uses digital communications

• has good research skills

**This voluntary role offers:**

This is a fantastic volunteering opportunity to offer your skills to help connect people to wildlife in Cheshire. The role offers the flexibility of doing things independently in your own time whilst offering some interaction with a close knit team.

You can build your communications experience and become a part of a growing community of activists who want to make a difference in our local area. On top of that, you’ll be supporting a well-established regional charity, helping make a difference to local wildlife while enhancing your own CV.

**Support and Training:**

We will support this role through campaigns training sessions as well through guidance from the Campaigns Officer. Volunteers will also have access to our campaign webinars, monthly briefings and the opportunity to network with Trust staff and volunteers!

**I’m interested – what should I do?**

To apply please **send us your CV and no more than 200 words** explaining why you want to volunteer for this role and what makes you a good fit for it. Send expressions of interest and CVs to: volunteering@cheshirewt.org.uk.

**Other things to know:**

If you’re interested and have the skills required, we’ll invite you to a Zoom chat.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is a charity so we can’t pay all expenses for volunteers. In special circumstances or, if asked to travel to a certain location, some travel expenses can be paid. These cases can be discussed with the Campaigns Officer in advance.

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