



Role Title: Sapling Group Woodland Play Leader

Main Activity:

Spending time together in the woods brings enormous benefits to children and their parents and carers. Exploring, learning and playing together as a community helps to break down barriers and make woodland play more accessible.

Exmoor National Park's FUN Project (Families United through Nature), Minehead's Forum 21 Community Wood and Plantlife's National Lottery Heritage Funded project 'Building Resilience in South West Woodlands' have come together to develop a 'Saplings' group for families living in Minehead. The Saplings group take part in simple and engaging activities that help families feel confident in the woods, encourage communication and support the development of skills.

We are looking for 2 volunteers who are interested in working with the Saplings group over the next 3 years and beyond, to make this a sustainable opportunity for the community.

Location:

Woodcombe Community Wood, Minehead.

Time Commitment:

Varies. Sessions are 1.5 hours long but there will be preparation time for each session, some administration and time involved with training.

Duration:

Saplings programmes run in 6 week blocks (currently on Mondays) and there will be regular blocks throughout the year. The project runs until March 2022 but it is hoped that the activity will continue beyond this.



Skills/Ability needed:

You will need to have a strong interest in working with children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers in the outdoors. You might have some experience of working with children and/or families or have an interest in developing experience in this area. You should feel confident talking to groups of people and leading activities with some training and support.

You should have a good awareness of health and safety issues relating to working in woodlands and with children and their parents/carers and be willing to undertake health and safety training. You should be willing to undertake training as necessary (including First Aid) and undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

What you need to bring:

Your usual outdoor clothing, water and any snacks you need.

What's in it for you:

As a volunteer Woodland Play Leader you will be trained and supported by a qualified and experienced outdoor practitioner with 15 years' experience of leading activities in nature. You will shadow sessions and take on a leadership role over time. Skills that you will develop are transferrable and will include planning individual sessions and programmes of activity, carrying out risk assessments, and liaising with families.

You will undertake a varied training programme and will be supported by the wider Forum 21 group. You will be providing families in Minehead with a much needed opportunity to take part in outdoor play activities.

Further info/contact (this should be the person responsible for the training/supervision of the volunteer)-

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