

Role title : Nature Buddy

Role location: London Borough(s) of Hounslow ??

Responsible to: Volunteer Officer, Ted Glendinning

Summary of Role: With supportive training and induction, Nature Buddies are paired with members of the local community at risk of isolation, who may not currently spend time outdoors. Over the course of 6-8 weeks, Nature Buddies meet weekly with their buddy to develop confidence, mobility, awareness and hope through visiting local natural environments. The activities and green spaces visited will be chosen between the Nature Buddy and the supported individual; you decide together what is most helpful, convenient and enjoyable. A Nature Buddy is someone who believes in the benefits of health and wellbeing, outdoor learning, and environmental stewardship.

Time Commitment: 1 hour weekly for periods of 6-8 weeks at a time. We love to work long-term with volunteers, so we provide solid support and training to make this a no-brainer for you.

Skills and Qualifications: No special qualifications or experience needed. Volunteers should be understanding, patient, empathetic and enthusiastic about the benefits of outdoor environments. We will provide a Disclosure & Barring Service screening which must be clear.

Training and Support: You will be given induction training into the various aspects of the work. You will receive ongoing training as well as peer support at volunteer meetings. Nature Buddies are a local network of similarly-motivated people who help each other too!

Reimbursement and Expenses: It is important to us to reduce barriers to volunteering. We reimburse out-of-pocket expenses to our volunteers: • Reasonable transport expenses • Light refreshments

Benefits to the Volunteer: A fantastic personal learning and development opportunity. Rewarding activity directly helping people at risk of isolation to engage with outdoor spaces and make new friends. Make a difference to someone who needs your support and wants to be part of this exciting innovative programme. Ideal opportunity to gain experience in social care and environmental sectors. Regular access to enjoying time outdoors in company, visiting the amazing nature in our boroughs. Join a small friendly team and develop your skills.

Accessibility and Inclusivity: If you have specific physical or other access needs that you would like to discuss with us, we welcome conversation to ensure you can benefit from this role.

Application Procedure: Initial meeting, DBS Check and References, Training and Induction.

Contact Details: Volunteer Officer Ted Glendinning LGOAL.volunteering@lgoal.org.uk, Director Frances Bennett frances.bennett@lgoal.org.uk.

