



# VOLUNTEER WITH US

Information Pack



**ACTION**  
FOR CONSERVATION

**I always feel appreciated as an Action for Conservation volunteer, which is one of the main reasons I keep coming back!**





# ABOUT US

Action for Conservation (AFC) is a UK youth environmental action charity that inspires and empowers young people aged 12-24, from diverse backgrounds across the UK, to become the next generation of environmental leaders.

To us, being a 'conservationist' or 'environmentalist' doesn't just mean following a career as a field biologist or a campaigner. We believe that a passion for nature can flow through anyone's life, whatever their day job. We inspire today's young people to a long-term belief in the wonder of the natural world, which will shape their dreams and actions however their life turns out.

**“This is a charity that changes lives, human and more-than-human: it's an honour to be part of it. The work and vision of the AFC team, and above all of the young people we're lucky enough to work with, is a daily inspiration.”**

Robert Macfarlane  
Founding Trustee

# PROGRAMMES

## WildED

An education programme for secondary schools and youth groups. Young people learn about environmental issues and solutions. Groups then develop their own action projects on environmental problems that they feel need to be tackled in their communities and schools. Previous projects include creating vegetable gardens and beach clean-up events.



## Residential Summer Camps

Taking place in UK National Parks, like the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, young people spend an all-inclusive five days immersed in nature. They explore habitats, take part in hands-on conservation activities with partners like the National Trust, see incredible wildlife during bird ringing, moth trapping and bat walk sessions and make friends for life.

## Ambassador Programme

After camp, young people are invited to join our year-long Ambassador Programme. They take part in webinars and action days with partners and experts and are supported to pursue independent projects, from leading food-growing clubs to designing and delivering sustainable fashion workshops. They also access and participate in meaningful decision-making opportunities with other organisations.



## The Penpont Project

Taking place in the heart of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park in Wales, this is the largest intergenerational nature restoration project in the world. Guided by a Youth Leadership Group of 12 to 18-year-olds, young people work in partnership with local farmers, landowners, and conservationists to restore habitats and explore innovative farming and forestry approaches for humans and non-humans alike.



# WHY VOLUNTEER?

You'll be joining a young, mission-driven team who truly love what they do. Working with young people is always rewarding, sometimes challenging and never boring, and you'll get to experience first-hand the positive impact that your contribution has.

## Some of the benefits of volunteering at Action for Conservation :

- A thorough induction and training package specific to your role.
- Access to training, skill-sharing workshops, networking events and career support and opportunities, depending on your role, interests and development goals.
- Easy shift sign-up and scheduling options.
- Opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge such as public speaking, youth engagement, group facilitation, practical conservation, and others.
- Invitations to volunteer celebrations, socials and a recognition event.
- Seeing the impact of what you do, as you transform young people's lives.
- Reasonable travel costs and food are provided for most roles.



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# VOLUNTEER ROLES

## Choosing a volunteer role:

Read through the roles below. In your volunteer application choose one role that best reflects your interests and suitability. If you're interested in different roles, there is space to indicate this on your application and it may be possible to expand your responsibilities once you start volunteering.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER

### Apply for this role if you are:

- 18+ years-old
- An early career professional or University student or recent graduate
- Interested in developing skills and knowledge in youth work and nature
- Living in London, Manchester or Bristol
- Fun, energetic and empathetic
- Able to attend at least 1 workshops or activities per month, noting that typically:
  - WildED takes place during week days
  - Ambassador activities take place on weekends
  - Activity times vary and are not always consistent, so require some flexibility

### What will you do?

- Support us in delivering engaging workshops and outdoor action days with young people across our programmes
- Provide support and feedback for young people's projects and ideas
- Contribute your knowledge and skills to our programmes and develop new ones of your own



## CAMP LEADER

### Apply for this role if you are:

- 18+ years-old
- An early career professional or University student or recent graduate
- Interested in developing skills and knowledge in youth work and nature
- Fun, energetic and empathetic
- Familiar with AFC's work already, either through a previous volunteer role or personal connection to the charity
- Able to attend at least 3 days of a residential summer camp in July or August (please visit [our website](#) for this summer's camp dates).

### What will you do?

- Support us in delivering engaging sessions with young people on camp
- Support with group management, health and safety and logistics
- Help with cooking and cleaning
- Lead games and contribute to the fun





## PENPONT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

### Apply for this role if you are:

- Any age, though young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied to activities by a parent/carer
- Positive, energetic and willing to learn on the go
- Physically able to walk across varied terrain (activity-dependent)
- Able to independently travel to Penpont (LD3 8EU), located near Brecon, Wales

### What will you do?

- Carry out practical restoration activities at Penpont as our seasonal action plan unfolds
- Connect with the land and community through collective action for the land, art, games and feasts

## KNOWLEDGE MENTOR

### Apply for this role if you are:

- 18+ years-old
- Knowledgeable or have specialised skills in a particular area related to our work, for example, pond creation, bushcraft, food growing, environmental justice, meadow creation, species monitoring etc.
- Keen to share your experience and experience with young people
- Available to respond to ad-hoc opportunities related to your particular knowledge or skills area as they arise

### What will you do?

- Lead/co-lead 'expert' sessions across our programmes on your particular knowledge or skill area
- Provide advice and guidance to young people and members of our team related to your particular knowledge or skills area
- Support young people to implement projects related to your particular knowledge or skill area



## PHOTOGRAPHY VOLUNTEER

### Apply for this role if you are:

- 18+ years-old
- Interested in photography or videography
- Experienced photographer/videographer either professional, graduate or self-taught as part of own interest
- Interested in youth work and nature
- Fun, high energy and engaging
- Owning your own camera is a bonus!

### What will you do?

- Capture and edit photographs across our programmatic work
- Capture video content from across our programmatic work
- Ad hoc video editing for social media





# MEET NAYHA

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I have been volunteering with AFC for around 5 years and I look forward to supporting the team and meeting the young people at the summer camps each year! The highlight of the camp for me is always the Dragons Den, where young people envision a better future. It's great to see the young people grow in confidence, collaborate and incorporate all the new things they have learnt when they present their visions! Being an AFC volunteer is important to me because I believe it is so important to share and educate on the importance of conserving nature and protecting our planet.

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# MEET HENRY

AFC's aim of getting young people engaged with wildlife and conservation is a mission which speaks to me both personally and professionally, and I feel like I am being part of the solution by volunteering. It is one of the most satisfying and enjoyable experiences that I have had in the conservation sector.

Volunteering with AFC has pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me develop new skills and confidence, especially in working with and leading young people, understanding their diverse needs, and helping them to have a positive experience. I have also learned a great deal more about the conservation sector in the UK.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Diversity is one of our core values as an organisation and we are committed to creating an inclusive working environment where diversity is valued and there is equality of opportunity. We also recognise that the climate and ecological crisis disproportionately impacts minority and/or marginalised communities – yet these voices are largely underrepresented in the sector.

Currently, the environmental sector is the second least diverse in the UK, with just 4.8% of employees from ethnic minority backgrounds. If the environmental movement is to succeed in creating a greener future that supports society as a whole, we need diverse voices at the heart of our programmes. We, therefore, encourage people from demographics that are currently underrepresented in the environmental movement to apply.





# KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

We are committed to ensuring that robust child safeguarding practices are seen as the norm so that safeguarding becomes everybody's responsibility. We expect all volunteers to protect the young people we work with from harm and abide by our Child Safeguarding Policy. Volunteers will be required to provide two references as part of the application process and may be asked to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, depending on the nature of their role.

# HOW TO APPLY

## COMPLETE THE APPLICATION ONLINE

Please complete our online application form by clicking the button below. You must select the role you are applying for. Once you apply, we will review your application and be in touch.

[\*\*APPLY HERE\*\*](#)

As part of our safe recruitment practices, we require references and CVs for most volunteer roles. We also require all volunteers to read and consent to our volunteer policy.

[\*\*VOLUNTEER POLICY\*\*](#)

## WHAT TO HIGHLIGHT IN YOUR APPLICATION

Tell us why you are motivated to apply to become a volunteer with us and how your skills, attributes and availability meet the needs of the role. We'd also like to understand how you hope the role will benefit you.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the team at:

[\*\*volunteer@actionforconservation.org\*\*](mailto:volunteer@actionforconservation.org)

