



Wildlife Watch Leader Volunteer – Penrith & Cumbria wide Role Description

About Cumbria Wildlife Trust

As one of 46 independent Wildlife Trusts, we are a local wildlife conservation charity. Cumbria Wildlife Trust cares passionately about wildlife and wild places – we're here to put wildlife back into our land and seascapes to make Cumbria a wilder county with more space for nature.

We restore and connect wild places, work with nature to tackle the climate emergency and support people to take local action for wildlife.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the dedication and support from our community of 600 active volunteers, over 1500 members and supporters.

What is a Wildlife Watch Leader volunteer?

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts and is the UK's leading club for young environmentalists. Our local Wildlife Watch clubs across Cumbria run a varied programme of fun environmental and wildlife focused activities, aimed at 6- to 12-year-olds.

As a Wildlife Watch Leader, you will be a key player in Cumbria Wildlife Trust's work with young people. You will have the opportunity to engage with children in nature, share your passions and help to shape their learning and understanding about the environment through running once monthly short wildlife sessions.

This role can be extremely rewarding for you.

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team at Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Getting out and about in nature
- Health and wellbeing benefits
- Passing on your wildlife knowledge and enthusiasm to our next generation environmentalists
- Learning new conservation, administration and skills that will help your future career/learning opportunities
- Access to support and resources from Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Materials and training will be provided. Helpers will also support you with planning, preparation, delivering and administration of activities



What's involved?

As a Wildlife Watch Leader you will:

- Publicise the presence of the group to local children, young people and their families
- Plan and organise a fun programme of activities throughout the year with, and for, the group, using themes relevant to Cumbria Wildlife Trust. You will deliver regular, hands on, informal outdoor activities, enabling young people to explore the wildlife around them more closely
- Adopt guidelines to assist you in running safe and enjoyable meetings. These include safeguarding, H&S, risk assessments and participation registration
- Promote Wildlife Watch and Cumbria Wildlife Trust, using templates and posters provided
- Keep in regular contact with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, young people and their families
- Support young people gaining Wildlife Watch awards, celebrating their activities and achievements

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves wildlife and wants to make a real difference in their local community. It would especially suit those who:

- Are keen and confident working with young people
- Have a natural enthusiasm for wildlife and nature of Cumbria (You DON'T need to be an expert)
- Are full of creative and fun activity ideas
- Are willing to learn how to organise and plan the leadership of safe sessions
- Able to work well with other volunteers and share tasks as a team
- Eager to have a real impact to support our next generation environmentalists
- Enjoy working in an outdoor environment (in all weathers!)

Previous experience and knowledge of nature conservation and wildlife is far less important than an empathy with young people and the ability to interest them in fun ways to investigate their surroundings. However, being a Wildlife Watch leader does involve commitment and responsibility for the safety and well-being of all group members.



Extra information

Your place	Cumbria, countywide We are keen for new Watch Groups to develop across Cumbria. If you have a venue in mind, please get in touch.
Time commitment	This is a very flexible volunteer role. As a leader you can decide with your helpers how often- and when- you wish to run sessions
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	
Training/Resources	Volunteer handbook and Trust induction. Health and safety, event planning and delivery and safeguarding training specific to Wildlife Watch will be mandatory and provided for you. Volunteers are able to receive travel expenses of 0.45p per mile agreed in advanced with their staff contact. First aid training will be provided for volunteer leaders.
Other Requirements	The Trust will apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for volunteers undertaking this role because it involves working with children and young people or vulnerable adults. In the second stage of the volunteer recruitment process, we will take up two references. A short application form will also be required to be completed

**This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one
or an employment contract**