

Young Environmental Leaders Volunteer Role Description at Cumbria Seed Bank

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, wild places and people – 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 action for wildlife.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the dedication and support from our community of 700 active volunteers, and over 15,000 members and supporters.

What is a Young Environmental Leader?

We are looking for volunteers aged 15-25 who will learn essential conservation horticulture skills and work on our exciting new project in partnership with Kew Millennium Seed Bank.

This project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and aims to collect and preserve the world's seeds to safeguard wild plant diversity and support nature-based solutions.

You will join a friendly and dedicated team of volunteers and staff and your role will include collecting seeds from 14 key species in Cumbria, which will then develop new strongholds in particular areas. Learn plant science, I.D. skills, propagation, plant care, seed protocols and many more skills out in the field.

What's in it for you?

No experience needed and full training will be provided. This is a great insight/stepping stone into this essential area of conservation work.

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and who cares about nature. It would especially suit those who:

- Are aged 15 - 25
- Enjoys practical activity and working outdoors
- Has an eye for detail
- Is looking to develop new skills

However, please note that you don't need to have all of these interests or skills to undertake of skills to undertake this volunteering role.

Extra information

Your place	Gosling Sike, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LD
Time commitment	<p>10am-2pm Saturdays fortnightly until November 2026</p> <p>A trip to Kew Millennium Seed Bank (London) is planned for July; the group will be hosting the Young Environmental Leaders Summit to round off the journey in October.</p>
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, volunteering coordinator volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	Daniel Richards DanielR@CumbriaWildlifeTrust.org.uk
Training/Resources	<p>Seed Bank skills programme</p> <p>Volunteer handbook and online Trust induction</p> <p>Health and safety training</p> <p>Volunteers are able to claim travel expenses of 45p per mile agreed in advance with their staff contact</p>
Other requirements	A site induction and orientation will be provided

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