

GORGIE CITY FARM – ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities can be found in the following areas:

ANIMAL WORK

REGULAR SLOTS in the large animal/ poultry section	Due to demand offers will normally be limited to 1 half day per week. There is a waiting list- turnover is unpredictable but is currently running around the 4 - 6 month mark.	Mucking out comprises a significant proportion of the duties. Feeding, turning out and moving livestock, occasional grooming and assistance with general tasks eg bagging manure, unloading deliveries etc is also expected	All are welcome whether applying for specific experience of animal work eg for courses, a general desire to work with animals for its own sake, volunteering for general work experience or just wishing to use their time constructively for the community. Previous experience not required, just a willingness to muck in.	Contact Ros Angus on 0131 337 4202 or email volunteering@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk
WORK EXPERIENCE in the large animal/ poultry section	Some week long (full day normally) placements are available between late March and end June, & mid August and mid September.	as above	These will be prioritised for those applying to courses [in the relevant year] or attending placements required by courses or schools.	as above
WORK EXPERIENCE in the Pet Lodge	Week long (full day normally) placements are very occasionally available during school holidays		These are normally prioritised for Veterinary Students on EMS.	Contact Jo Pritchard on 0131 337 4202 or email petlodge@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk

Due to the Out of Bounds Project there are few opportunities for over 16s at the Pet Lodge with the smaller animals.

We occasionally recruit for helpers for the Mobile Pet Service.

[13-16 year olds may apply but there should be some reason for (self-) referral as this project is targeted at socially marginalised young people. A waiting list applies.]

GARDENING

REGULAR SLOTS Gardening	We currently offer groups on a variety of weekday mornings (and a youth group on a Sunday afternoon). Spaces vary so we have a waiting list - we try and operate balanced groups of a size to allow us to maintain a good experience.	We have several different garden areas- a vegetable garden a herb garden and a wildlife garden as well as pots and verges around the farm so we can offer a range of experiences and tasks from planting to weeding to harvesting. We offer accreditation through Borders College courses.	We operate mixed ability groups so appreciation of this is essential. Interest and Enthusiasm is the main requirement. Any experience is useful but not essential	Community Garden Project Manager (Tracy Cudworth) Tel: 337 4202 or email garden@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk
REGULAR SLOTS Produce Stall	Flexible throughout the week, but commitment to a regular half day timeslot helpful.	Produce sales using till, public enquiries Potential roles marketing the stall or producing materials eg recipes promoting healthy eating We offer accreditation through Borders College courses.	Interest and Enthusiasm is the main requirement. Any experience is useful but not essential	as above
ONE OFF EVENTS	Look out for publicity on website or posted around farm.			as above

EDUCATION/ YOUTH WORK

Young Farmers Club Helper*	Saturday Morning#, commitment to a regular timeslot required (whether weekly/ fortnightly/ triweekly).	Supervision of Group doing Farm Tasks or during education programme, other input may be negotiated. Potentially you could be assigned as to help with a particular child or group	Enthusiasm and common sense. Some experience/ knowledge of animals and/ or children's work useful	Ros Angus YF Co-ordinator Tel: 337 4202 youngfarmers@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk
Young Farmers Club Activity Organiser*	Commitment to a specific project over short period (eg weekly for 3 weeks- to run 1 activity for each club).	Running specific activity eg wildlife survey/ craft/ games or giving a talk or any other themed activity relevant to farming/ countryside.	Enthusiasm and common sense. Some experience/ knowledge of the activity/ theme to be offered and of running it with children.	Ros as above

Education* Assistant roles (Usually recruitment is on hiatus outwith peak times.)	Mainly School Hours, currently demand is highest early in the Autumn Term and from late in Spring term until June.	Tours / workshops (for mainly Primary Age children) around the farm.	Enthusiasm. Previous experience with children/ special needs adults an advantage. Farming or environmental knowledge also useful.	Malcolm Bruce Education Officer Tel: 623 7031 or email education@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk
	Mainly School Hours onsite or independently	Classroom and Material Preparation	Enthusiasm. Farming knowledge useful.	Malcolm as above
	Mainly School Hours	Maintenance of Centre equipment, painting signs etc.	Enthusiasm, willingness to learn.	Malcolm as above
Tutor roles*	Regular time e.g. weekly over fixed or longer time period	(Volunteer) Tutor of topics like aromatherapy, pottery, (gardening), art, etc.	Enthusiasm Some tutoring experience desirable.	Malcolm as above

WORKSHOP

Workshop	Mainly Weekdays	General maintenance, hutch building etc.	Experience appreciated- we would hope the volunteer could work increasingly unsupervised where appropriate.	Glyn Stanworth: Estate Supervisor Tel: 337 4202
Maintenance Group	Wednesday mornings	General maintenance and repairs, painting etc	Experience helpful but not required as more instruction can be provided to this group	Glyn as above

OTHER

Admin / telephones	Any time 9am -4pm , 7 days A few hours each week or fortnight would work well.	Answering telephones. taking and relaying messages. Ist line enquiries. We envisage this would be an aside to specific admin tasks eg copy typing, sponsorship or membership admin.	Basic computer skills helpful. Good telephone manner. Good retention of information and organisation required.	Ros as above or Katy Mowat at sponsor@gorgiecityfarm.org.uk
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Note: Information regarding health issues (mental or physical) and leaning disabilities is not used for selection purposes - and is kept confidential as appropriate (eg something like epilepsy would be notified to any group leader / line manager so they can refresh themselves on the first aid for a fit) but no one else [except at your request] - so please provide full information and help us to help you stay safe and get the most out of any opportunity.

That said please note that for animal work opportunities in particular, if the prospective volunteer has support needs due to physical or learning disabilities, or would find it difficult to work independently then a support worker should be supplied by any referring organisation. A trial period will be observed in all cases and if a worker not supplied and we think one is required either short or long term we reserve the right to delay a start until this is arranged. (The person could be a trained befriender or similar and need not be a paid individual). This is for the safety of the volunteer and the general public. (We do not have the manpower/ funding to offer one to one supervision beyond the induction stage).

It is part of the farm's policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults that all volunteers over 18* (16 if role with YFs and therefore may be operating off-site) have disclosure checks done for criminal background before they can work unsupervised in a role involving direct contact with children particularly if leadership, supervision or tutoring expected (starred). [Vetting otherwise is by informal interview and following up references.]