

Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer role: Volunteer Ranger

Location: Bushy Park, Richmond Park or Both

Purpose: To engage, inspire and inform members of the public about the history, heritage and wildlife of the parks

Lead contact: Jo Meays – Volunteer Officer



Description	<p>The Royal Parks are vital for nature and people and have a fascinating history. We want to inspire and educate park users, furthering their understanding and appreciation of these amazing landscapes.</p> <p>Bushy and Richmond Parks are not only fantastic pockets of nature within our bustling capital, but lifelines for thousands of living things. Both parks are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Richmond is a National Nature Reserve. These parks date back almost 500 years and have rich natural and historical heritage that we want to share with our park users. The Volunteer Rangers play a key role in protecting and future-proofing these parks by engaging with visitors and offering information and advice about their wildlife, history, and heritage.</p> <p>During the first year of the service Volunteer Rangers spoke to over 6500 visitors in Bushy and Richmond Parks, enhancing experiences and offering advice on how best to appreciate these spaces. We are now looking to increase volunteer numbers so that we can provide the service more fully, try new ways of information sharing and inspire even more park users.</p> <p>This is an exciting opportunity for anyone wanting to develop their public engagement skills, “give something back” or contribute to the protection of these precious parklands by sharing their passion with other park users.</p>
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an ambassador for Bushy and Richmond Park and The Royal Parks• Engage and inspire visitors through friendly conversation to enhance their visitor experience• Share information about the wildlife, history, heritage and management of the parks• Offer advice and tips to enhance park user experience and enjoyment
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friendly, approachable and enthusiastic – you will be one of the key representatives of the parks• Confident communication skills with the ability to provide an excellent level of customer engagement• Passion for wildlife, heritage and parks with a desire to share this with others

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the parks or a willingness to learn • Calm and practical in unexpected situations with good common sense • Ability to undertake activities in the outdoors and in all weathers • Reliable and able to commit to the expected number of sessions • Able to work alongside a range of people
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Time commitment	<p>Volunteer Ranger sessions are two hours long and are offered on weekends, bank holidays and some weekdays – you choose what sessions you can attend.</p> <p><i>We ask that volunteers can commit to a minimum of two sessions per month. These can be on the same day or spread across the weeks.</i></p>
Benefit to volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop your public and community engagement skills • Gain experience in a public facing role in nationally important sites • Give back to the community and connect them with the park’s shared heritage • Share your passion for Bushy/Richmond Park, its wildlife, and its history • Spend time outdoors in a beautiful and fascinating setting • Help to protect the Parks natural environment for future generations • Varied, flexible and interesting role • Join a great team of volunteers and have fun!
Training and support	<p>The Royal Parks will provide you with a comprehensive introduction and induction to the role, as well as in park training.</p> <p>You will have continuous support and development from the Volunteer Ranger Service’s dedicated Volunteer Officer as well as the extended team.</p> <p>You will be provided with a uniform and access to any necessary personal protective equipment.</p> <p>The Royal Parks will reimburse reasonable travel expenses</p>
Application process	<p>Apply using the attached application form or use the one on our website: www.royalparks.org.uk/rangers</p> <p>Paper forms available on request.</p> <p><i>You will need to be over 18 years old to carry out this role.</i></p>

If you have any questions about this role or to discuss your application please contact: Jo Meays via volunteering@royalparks.org.uk