

Feed the Birds Befriender Volunteer



Team

People and Wildlife

Role Description

This role is part of our Feed the Birds befriending scheme. Volunteers are matched with prospective clients who have been assessed as lonely or socially isolated by an agency or organisation in Shropshire. The volunteer's role is to visit and help fill a bird feeder which is provided by the scheme, chat with the client about what they have seen, and generally 'check in' with their client. Volunteers are matched with a client living within reasonable walking, cycling, bus or driving distance. Travel expenses for visits, training, and meetings, can be reimbursed on a monthly basis.

This role is quite emotionally demanding as the clients we support are often living with a life limiting condition, a terminal diagnosis or a physical or sensory impairment, as well as being socially isolated. You will need to be emotionally resilient and able to maintain the boundaries of the role. We provide support and training for this.

Skills and Experience

- Listening / empathic hearing
- Interest in birds and bird feeding
- Open minded / non judgemental
- commitment to the project
- Dealing with vulnerable people
- Basic bird ID skills

Essential / Desirable?

- Essential
- Essential
- Essential
- Essential
- Desirable
- Desirable

Skills Development Offered

- We provide a bespoke, mandatory half-day training course which covers the following: project overview as well as personal safety; communication and listening skills; boundaries and confidentiality. We also cover the practicalities of bird feeding and basic bird ID skills.

Support Available

- Regular monthly volunteer supervision meetings are held at The Cut, Shrewsbury. These meetings provide an important opportunity to share experiences, raise any issues with staff & volunteers, and to monitor and check progress. We often invite a speaker or do an activity relevant to the project.
- Staff support, as and when needed, from the Feed the Birds Project officer.
- Once you register as a volunteer, you will be invited to volunteer social events and training.

Minimum time commitment needed

In addition to attending the Feed the Birds training mentioned above:

- One-hour weekly visit (at fixed, agreed times to your client's home) for a minimum of 6 months.
- Attendance at the monthly volunteer supervision meetings which are approx. 2hrs.
- Optional attendance at a one-hour SWT "Volunteer Introduction".

Other information

- You will be expected to comply with our safeguarding policy and procedures and code of practice for appropriate behaviour.
- Satisfactory references and a DBS check are part of the recruitment process for this role

Contact

To apply for this role: submit your online application here <https://forms.office.com/r/ah5GhqE7zG> or from our volunteer webpage <https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer>