

Shropshire Wildlife Trust Young Trustee Role Description

Background

Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) works across Shropshire (including Telford & Wrekin) to confront the 'triple emergency' of climate crisis, ecological crisis, and people's inequitable connection with nature. We combine advocacy and campaigning with projects to restore nature and to engage people. We manage 41 nature reserves, and we have 50 staff, 300 volunteers, and over 9000 members. SWT is an autonomous charity, but we are increasingly working collectively as part of The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) to ensure that our local actions have a national impact and help to address global issues.

Diversifying our board of trustees

Future generations are key to safeguarding nature for the future. So, with this in mind we hope to support, encourage and listen to young voices as much as we can whilst at the same time investing in our future leaders. A crucial element of this is having young people on our board of trustees.

We're currently recruiting two young trustees for appointment to our board of trustees at our AGM in October.

Young trustees

As a young trustee, you will help shape the future direction and activities of the Trust. You will help Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) to navigate uncertainty, future proof decision making, think of new and innovative ideas and encourage wider debate.

Your main responsibilities will be to:

- Attend and contribute to Trustee meetings
- Act solely in SWT's best interests
- Help manage SWT's resources responsibly
- Comply with SWT's governing document and the law (this will be explained in more detail in your induction process)
- Act as the link with the youth forum and advise on realistic recommendations for their annual report to trustees.

We're looking for anyone:

- Aged 18- 26 years
- That can bring a younger perspective to our Board of Trustees and contribute new ideas.
- Who's a great communicator
- Who listens and acts fairly
- Willing to understand and take on the duties and responsibilities of being a trustee.

You must be able to show a passion or interest in any of the following:

- Wildlife and conservation
- The climate crisis
- Education and youth work
- Communications, marketing and/or campaigning
- Diversity and inclusion

- Community empowerment/voluntary work.

In return you will receive the following benefits and training opportunities:

- Help to shape the future of SWT
- Receive a full induction
- Have a trustee mentor as well as staff mentor to support your trustee journey
- Connect and engage with SWT's Youth Forum
- Have the opportunity to make a difference in your community and to your local wild spaces
- Work as part of a team bringing nature to a broad and diverse audience in Shropshire
- Gain experience in the guidance of a local charity
- Enhance your CV and experience by developing skills such as strategic thinking, leadership and giving feedback
- Have the opportunity to receive practical conservation experience as part of the induction process.

We hope to recruit two young trustees so if successful you should have another young trustee for support, sharing experiences and opportunities.

You will need to:

- Complete a trustee induction process
- Attend trustee meetings (4 a year held from 730-930pm in Shrewsbury), the AGM and occasional field trips
- Ideally commit to the role for 4 years; however we understand that educational or other personal commitments may mean that sometimes a young trustee will have to step down after a shorter period.

How to apply

To apply, please write a short description or make a two-minute film about yourself, your interests, things you have experienced in life and learning that make you an ideal trustee and a proposal detailing why you want to be a SWT trustee, how you fit the role requirements and what skills and experience you can bring to our board of trustees.

Deadline for applications is 9am on 8th August 2022. Please email your personal statement or film to bethl@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

We will contact short listed candidates for an introductory chat the week beginning 15th August and conduct informal interviews the week beginning 29th August

If you feel that this is too much of a commitment, but you would still like to get involved with Shropshire Wildlife Trust, there are plenty of other valuable opportunities. Get in touch with Beth to find out more at bethl@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk