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## Volunteer role description

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<b>Role title:</b>	Wildlife Watch Leader
<b>Team/Group:</b>	Wildlife Watch / People and Wildlife
<b>Your volunteer leader:</b>	Lynn Victor – Audience Development Project Officer (Watch Organiser)
<b>Volunteering base:</b>	Various vacancies as follows:

**Attenborough Watch Group:** based at Attenborough Nature Reserve, Barton Lane, NG9 6DY.

**Nottingham City Watch Group:** based at Wollaton Park and visits to nearby nature reserves.

**Farndon Watch Group:** based at Farndon Willow Holt, Farndon village (near Newark).

**Fernwood Watch Group:** based at Fernwood village (near Newark).

**Rushcliffe Watch Group:** based at Rushcliffe Country Park, Mere Way, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire.

**Mansfield Watch Group:** based at St Marks Church Hall, Nottingham Rd, Mansfield, NG18 1BP (visiting local nature reserves).

**Idle Valley Watch Group:** based at Idle Valley Rural Learning Centre & Nature Reserve, North Rd, Retford, DN22 8SG.

**Woodthorpe Watch Group:** based at Woodthorpe Meadow, Sherwood Community Centre, off Mansfield Rd, Sherwood, Nottingham (starting spring 2019).

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### Why we need this role

Wildlife Watch Leaders make an invaluable contribution to the work of The Wildlife Trusts, helping to connect, promote and engage children between the ages of 8-13 years and their families to their local environment and to wildlife.

Watch Leaders enable more children and families to get actively involved in wildlife and outdoor activities in their **local area**, encouraging and developing the next generation of passionate wildlife enthusiasts and supporters.

We currently have eight Wildlife Watch groups across Nottinghamshire. [For more information about Wildlife Watch follow this link.](#)

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## What this role involves

As part of a team of leaders and helpers, **Watch Leaders** will:

Plan a fun programme of wildlife activities throughout the year, inspired by nature and the environment.

The emphasis is on regular, hands-on, informal outdoor activities, enabling children to explore the wildlife around them more closely.

Deliver and lead each two-hour monthly sessions, working together with a team of other volunteer leaders and helpers.

Administer and run sessions following our safeguarding guidelines and H&S procedures, including risk assessments and correct registration of each participant when they start and when they attend each month.

Contribute to data collection about sessions by keeping up-to-date records and communicate regularly with our Watch Organiser (Lynn Victor) to ensure sessions are recorded and evaluated centrally.

Help promote Wildlife Watch sessions using templates and posters provided.

Use the Watch email to regularly follow-up any enquires or contact from families wishing to join or to find out about sessions.

Attend (where possible) Wildlife Watch volunteer training/sharing events.

Utilise the free and supportive online materials and ideas provided by the national Wildlife Watch website and network.

Support the administration of children gaining Wildlife Watch awards, celebrating children's activities and achievements.

Help document workshops by taking photos of activities and evaluating sessions.

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## Experience and skills needed

Approachable with a friendly personality.

Interested in wildlife and conservation.

Like listening and helping people.

Ability to work as part of a team

Efficient at taking messages and passing them on

Some IT skills would be advantageous but not absolutely necessary

Previous experience and knowledge of conservation and wildlife is far less important than an empathy with children and the ability to interest them in fun ways to investigate their surroundings. However, leadership does involve commitment and responsibility for the safety and well-being of the group members.

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## Benefits and training opportunities

Watch 'leader' status as part of the Watch Leader network in Notts and the UK.  
Regular contact from the Watch Organiser, mailings, activity ideas and resources for your group  
Training on child welfare and safeguarding, planning and running sessions and activities.  
Two training/networking days each year for volunteer teams to get together and share ideas.  
Support in promotion of the group, and recruitment of children to the group.  
Access to the leader pages on the Wildlife Watch website, containing resources for leaders.  
Personal and skills experience to help future careers/learning opportunities.  
An opportunity to mentor other volunteers and helpers.  
Rewarding outcomes, enabling children to access nature and wildlife in your local area.

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## Commitment

Wildlife Watch groups meet once a month for a two-hour session, run by Watch Leaders who can commit to most sessions so there is continuity.

Wildlife Watch Leaders can delegate session delivery to other group helpers if occasionally required and some groups may choose to deliver more or fewer sessions during certain seasons. This can be agreed with the Watch Organiser.

There are occasional group planning meetings which volunteers may organise to help plan sessions and two training/networking days per year for all Watch Leaders across the county to get together.

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## Duration of role

Ongoing.

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## References required?

Yes

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All volunteers are asked to agree to our [Volunteer Code of Conduct](#)

Click her to complete an online [application form](#)

[www.nottinghamsirewildlife.org/get-involved](http://www.nottinghamsirewildlife.org/get-involved)