

Providing young people with the opportunity to 'Do' rather than 'Look'



Information for new volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on site. We hope you will find it a rewarding and exciting time both in the experiences you give to visitors and the opportunities you take up for your own development. Our group is friendly and supportive with members coming from a wide variety of backgrounds. Most importantly they enjoy what they do and are keen to see the site develop. We hope you will feel the same once you get involved.

As one of our volunteers said, "This site has changed the way I see the world".

Background to the project

In April of 2009 a partnership between Suffolk CC Archaeological Service, The Forestry Commission and The Extended Schools Service received Lottery Funding to work with groups of young people to build an experimental archaeology centre in Tunstall Forest near Snape.



Over the Easter and summer holidays, some 60 young people worked alongside specialists to build a camp including an Iron Age roundhouse, a Roman pottery kiln and a kitchen,. The young people completed all the work themselves, cooked their own food and spent a night in the woods sleeping in their own shelters.



Encouraged by the success of the project, volunteers have continued to develop the site and now have a permanent area used to benefit schools, youth groups and public organisations. HoH is now a registered charity, and Forestry England have given us a 10 year lease. The site also serves as a haven for volunteers to develop their own interests, supported by members of the group.



What you give

As a volunteer you would be expected to help support our March – October schools season, running workshops for visiting school groups. Depending on your experience you would spend time shadowing other volunteers and once confident, begin to lead the workshops. Group size for these is usually around 5 students. The majority of visiting schools are from the primary sector. We ask that you give at least 12 days each year to our school visits. These are all scheduled on weekdays, usually a Tuesday, occasionally Thursday/Friday if it is an overnight stay.



Unless there are school bookings we also run maintenance days for volunteers each Tuesday throughout the year. This is vital work, keeping the site safe and repaired. We often have new build/re-build projects running that offer a chance to learn new practical skills.



What you get

- Rewards in offering young people unique experiences in heritage education.
- The support and friendship of a diverse and supportive group of volunteers.
- Opportunities to develop skills you never knew you had.
- Training courses to further develop your skills
- The comradeship of like minded individuals.
- A place to retreat from the noise and bustle of modern life.

The work on site will require a degree of expertise in craft and woodland skills and knowledge of safe practice in working with sharp tools and equipment. If you don't have these skills then this will not be a problem as we aim to provide training.

We also welcome volunteers who can bring other skills to the team, maybe becoming a Trustee, managing our finances or developing our online presence, social media and website.

Opportunities Programme

All volunteers will need to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service through our organisation. There is no cost to the individual, this is required by law if you are to work with young people.

Training will be free to volunteers.

Training will usually take place on site where possible.



Volunteers will be able to gain experience in a range of practical skills that will meet their interests and the needs of the site.

These will include:

- Leading school workshops
- Firelighting
- Whittling
- Green woodworking and basic joinery
- Working with willow/hazel
- Working with textiles (including spinning and weaving)
- Thatching
- Clay daub
- Pottery and kiln firing
- Whittling

There will be opportunities to develop personal interests if these can add quality to the site.

What to do next?

If, having read this information you would still like to be involved please let us know. We will then arrange a site visit when you can find out more about what is expected, and receive information on the necessary paperwork to register.

Thank you once again for your interest.



Please use the contact form on our website to express your interest in volunteering.

We look forward to welcoming you on site!

www.handsonheritage.co.uk

