

Volunteer Guided Walk Leader - Role Profile

Purpose

Guided Walk Leaders lead high quality, safe, and inspirational guided walks, welcoming a wide range of people to the Lake District National Park.

Key tasks

As a Guided Walk Leader, tasks may include:

- Leading groups on low to medium level guided walks (2 leaders:20 participants).
- Working closely with your co-leader to manage and support your group.
- Learning about and communicating the local landscape, flora, fauna, history and future of places.
- Interpreting and communicating our key messages, in an inspirational way.
- Welcoming a diverse range of people to the Lake District National Park and acting as an LDNPA ambassador.
- Adhering to good practice, particularly with health and safety, and in support of our Values.
- Completing paperwork and contributing to risk-assessments.
- Participating in initial and ongoing training.
- Assisting with reviewing and contributing to new content of the walks programme.

Location

This role operates at locations throughout the Lake District. Walks leaders can choose to work predominantly in either the North or South of the park.

Supervisor(s)

Volunteers will work closely with, and be supervised by, the Volunteer Outreach Coordinator and experienced volunteers who help coordinate the walk programme.

Time commitment required

We ask for a minimum commitment of twelve days per year, including training days. Due to the training and support provided there is an expectation that you can commit to the role in the longer term. It usually takes at least a year from the time of recruitment to complete the training pathway and start leading walks.

Training

Ongoing training and support will be provided by the Volunteers Service. Training pathway will include:

- First Aid
- Navigation
- Outdoor Leadership Skills
- Safeguarding
- Learning about the National Park
- Shadowing guided walks
- A Guided Walk Leader Assessment

Person Specification

Leaders celebrate the distinctive characteristics of the National Park; they are excellent communicators and team players with plenty of recent walking experience and sound navigation skills. Leaders have a passion for, and a good general knowledge of the Lake District National Park. They can manage groups of people very well, and communicate sensitively, and effectively, demonstrating excellent interpersonal skills.

We ask that volunteers are able to demonstrate the following skills/ experience:

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Essential	Desirable
A good level of health & fitness: Able to confidently walk for a full day on varied terrain. Declare any health issues/concerns relevant to this role.	
Excellent people management and interpersonal skills: Able to confidently and calmly manage and support others in the outdoor environment. Good understanding of working with the public and other volunteers. Good communication; relates respectfully to others and encourages positive behaviours	Experience of working with or leading groups. Evidence of training or experience relating to working with groups of people. Recent experience or qualification of teaching, instructing or coaching others. Identifies own strengths and training needs.
Confident & competent navigation skills: Able to navigate with map and compass, and/or willingness to improve skills.	Recent training/qualification in navigation skills.
Experience of walking regularly in the Lake District fells: Able to demonstrate recent walking experiences. Awareness of Health and Safety	Walking/leading training or qualification e.g. Lowland leader, Hill and Moorland Leader, Summer Mountain Leader or similar.
Good general knowledge & enthusiasm for the Lake District National Park. Able to communicate knowledge and enthusiasm to others.	
Personal Attributes: Flexible, reliable, and organised. IT skills; comfortable with use of email for communication and with simple use of spreadsheets and word processors.	

What this role offers

- Unique opportunity to volunteer in spectacular landscapes.
- Support from a motivated and enthusiastic team.
- Training and development opportunities.
- The space to develop existing skills and gain new ones in varied environments.
- Chance to share your knowledge and passion for the Lake District.
- National Park uniform, parking permit and a range of discounts and offers.
- Reimbursement of expenses (public transport tickets, mileage rate, and car park pass).

Next steps

We will be selecting volunteers based on their experience and skills, enthusiasm for the role, and their availability. Please ensure that you give as much detail as possible when applying.

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We strongly encourage you to attend one of our guided walks before making an application; this is a good opportunity to learn more about the programme and chat with our existing Guided Walk Leaders. A list of upcoming walks can be found on the Lake District National Park Authority Website.

To apply, please fill out the application form on the website.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a selection day, where you'll get the chance to find out more, meet other volunteers, ask questions and demonstrate your suitability in a practical day on the hills. Once selected, volunteers will be given a National Park volunteering induction and training for the role. This may include shadowing and ongoing development opportunities.

If you have any more questions, please contact volunteers@lakedistrict.gov.uk and one of our team will be able to speak to you in more detail.