

Lake District Volunteers Service



Lake District
National Park

Gatescarth Volunteer - Role Profile

The Lake District National Park Authority looks after this unique corner of England, encouraging people to enjoy and understand its beauty and to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage, natural beauty, and unique wildlife of the Park. Gatescarth Pass is a Byway Open to All Traffic running between Sadgill in the South and Mardale, Haweswater in the North. The route is subject to a Traffic Regulation Order which prohibits motor vehicular access except on monthly Permit Days.

Our Gatescarth Volunteers support the smooth operation of the monthly permit days enabling the continuation of access to the byway for recreational motor users whilst preserving the area's wildlife and unique character as a historic packhorse track.

Key tasks

As a Gatescarth Volunteer, tasks may include:

- Walking to the access gates at either end of the Pass to change the padlock codes following a permit day. Volunteers based to the North of the Pass will change the padlocks at Mardale Head, Haweswater. Volunteers based in the South will change the padlocks at Brownhowe Bottom, Sadgill.
- Positively engaging with visitors to the Pass encountered whilst out volunteering, sharing your passion for the Park and local knowledge.
- Carrying out fixed point photography of the pass to monitor for any damage to the track (this takes place twice a year)
- Reporting any changes in the condition of the Pass, or damage to the gates/padlocks to the Area Ranger.
- Attending annual end of season meetings.

Location

This role is based at Gatescarth Pass. Volunteers based to the North of the Pass will change the padlocks at Mardale Head, Haweswater. Volunteers based in the South will change the padlocks at Brownhowe Bottom, Sadgill.

Supervisor(s)

Volunteers will be supported by the Voluntary Coordinator for the Gatescarth Volunteers and Suzy Hankin, Area Ranger, who oversees the operation of the Gatescarth Pass Permit System.

Time commitment required

Tasks carried out by Gatescarth Pass Volunteers ranges from a half to a full day of volunteering. We ask Gatescarth volunteers to undertake a minimum of 4 duties per year, plus any additional training and meetings. There are also opportunities to undertake general volunteering activities within Ranger Services.

Training

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

- Volunteering induction
- One Day First Aid
- Navigation Training

Person Specification

We ask that Gatescarth Volunteers can demonstrate the following skills:

Good general knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Lake District National Park.	Good communication skills and confidence in engaging with a wide range of people.
Appreciation of the different recreational uses of the Pass and the Park's trails more broadly. (Familiarity with the pass and its use is desirable but not essential.)	Ability to work constructively and collaboratively.
A good level of health & fitness: - Able to confidently walk outside on varied Terrain and to spend a full day outdoors on the Pass. - Declare any health issues/ concerns relevant to this role.	Personal Attributes: Friendly, reliable, and organised.

What this role offers

- Unique opportunity to volunteer in spectacular landscapes.
- Support from a motivated and enthusiastic team.
- Training and development opportunities.
- Chance to share your knowledge and passion for the Lake District.
- National Park uniform and reimbursement of expenses (public transport tickets and mileage rate)

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.