

Ranger Services Volunteer - Role Profile

Purpose

The Lake District National Park Authority looks after this unique corner of England, encouraging people to enjoy and appreciate its value and to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage, natural beauty, and unique wildlife of the National Park. Our Ranger Services Volunteers work across the Park to support the work of our Rangers out on the ground as well as acting as ambassadors for the National Park, offering a friendly face to those locals and visitors encountered whilst out volunteering.

Ranger Services Volunteers generally work within specific area groups, with each group adopting a different location or locations and taking care of their local patch.

Key tasks

As a Ranger Services Volunteer, tasks vary according to the area group, and may include:

- Task-focused work parties. These involve joining groups carrying out physical tasks such as, fixing fencing and signage, clearing vegetation, tree planting, litter picking, and maintaining rights of way. Work parties are led by a voluntary coordinator or member of staff.
- Positively engaging with visitors to and locals of the Park encountered whilst out volunteering, sharing a passion for the Park and local knowledge.
- Undertaking surveys; this may include surveying a set route, carrying out surveys of users of a particular trail, or surveying habitats and wildlife.
- Maintaining training and attending Ranger Services meetings.

Location

Ranger Services roles are based across the Park and volunteers will be matched to a specific area or areas; these are detailed at the bottom of this role profile. Volunteers are encouraged to select an area in their locality for reasons of familiarity, practicality, and sustainability in line with the Parks values and vision.

Supervisor(s)

Volunteers will work closely with and be supervised by volunteer coordinators and members of the Ranger Team.

Time commitment required

Tasks carried out by Ranger Services Volunteers range from a couple of hours to a full day of volunteering. We ask Ranger Services volunteers to undertake a minimum of 12 duties per year which includes any training and meetings.

Training

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

- Volunteering induction
- One Day First Aid
- Foundation Navigation (further navigation training may be required for more specialist roles within Ranger Services)

Person Specification

We ask that Ranger Services volunteers are able to demonstrate the following skills:

Good general knowledge of & 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 Park's trails, and of people's differing abilities and needs when out in the Park.	Ability to work constructively and collaboratively in a small team.
A good level of health & fitness: - Able to confidently walk outside on varied terrain. - Able to carry out the physical tasks required for their role. - Declare any health issues/ concerns relevant to this role.	Personal Attributes: Flexible, 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.
- 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).

Ranger Services Volunteer areas:

South Lakes

High Dam, Finsthwaite and West Windermere Way

This is a busy and high profile property linked to the equally busy and popular West Windermere Way. The work will vary with the seasons, from visitor engagement and advice in the busy Easter to October period, to more practically based work over the (relatively) quieter winter months. The ability to carry out simple practical work year round will be part and parcel of the patrol work regardless of the time of year.

Coniston Commons (High and Low Torver, Blawith and Subberthwaite)

The commons deliver grazing for the commoners, a wildlife habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, and access for visitors, particularly along lake shores and tarns. General patrolling and visitor advice, reporting issues, and dealing with small practical issues will be the main focus in this area, with potential for people, wildlife and habitat surveys from time to time.

Rusland Valley and Woodlands

These are the 'undiscovered' gems in the Rusland Valley. With limited public access and use, there is the greatest scope for practical works, including drystone walling and boundary works, woodland management, habitat and wildlife surveys with the chance to inform the visitors who do discover the National Park owned woodlands in the valley.

Beech Hill and Machells Coppice

Two very contrasting properties, Beech Hill is a car park and busy access area with great opportunities for visitor engagement and advice (particularly on water safety) on this compact site. Machells Coppice is a stone's throw away' has no formal public access and is 'cut off' by Windermere, private property to two sides, and the A591 on the fourth. Boundary, occasional fly camping, wildlife and habitat checks form the main areas of work on this site.

White Moss and Rydal

A small area of National Park woodland and associated drystone walls to check and maintain to along with invasive species control of Himalayan Balsam form the basis of this patrol, but there is significant visitor engagement work to be done on the busy routes between Rydal and Grasmere and the White Moss and Rydal Caves area. Visitor surveys are a likely part of this patrol.

Stickle Tarn

Our Stickle Tarn Volunteers carry out their volunteering at the beautiful location of Stickle Tarn below Pavey Ark, regularly walking from Langdale Valley to the tarn to carry out checks on the dam. These checks take place on a monthly basis and on a rolling rota so that this small group of volunteers can take it in turns to carry out these duties.

North Lakes

Keswick to Threlkeld trail

The Keswick to Threlkeld Trail (K2T) reopened in 2020, five years after large sections were destroyed by storm damage. The new and improved trail is one of our key 'Miles Without Stiles' routes and attracts a large number of visitors of different backgrounds and abilities. Our K2T Voluntary Rangers play a leading role in the ongoing maintenance and promotion of the trail, engaging with visitors as they use the route as well as undertaking practical tasks to keep the trail accessible and usable by all.

Caldbeck Common

Our Caldbeck Volunteers work in the distinctive Caldbeck Fells, renowned for their remote scenic landscape, archaeological sites, geology and minerals. They work alongside our staff team to manage Caldbeck and Uldale

Common, surveying and upkeeping the commons and rights of way, checking Carrock Mine, monitor and report on illegal activity and monitor and observe annual events held on the Common

Barf Common

Our Barf Volunteers work in the unique area of Barf Common, a designated area of common land in the north-western Lake District. Working under the direction of our Ranger team, they undertake work parties and patrols of this protected peatland area.

Bassenthwaite

Our Bassenthwaite Volunteers work around the SSSI and National Nature Reserve of Bassenthwaite Lake. They positively engage with a wide variety of lake users, providing support, information and advice on safe and responsible use of the lake and the surrounding area, in addition to supporting practical works to protect and enhance this special place.

Buttermere

Our Buttermere Volunteers carry out regular ranger patrols of the beautiful area surrounding Buttermere. They monitor Rights of Way, reporting any issues back to our Ranger team and carrying out basic maintenance tasks and litter picking.

West Lakes

Stanley Ghyll, Eskdale accessible trails and the Esk TRail

This site is a SSSI and western rain forest site, loved by visitors for generations and home to a spectacular waterfall and viewing platform. It is linked to accessible trails and the Esk TRail which runs 8 miles to Ravenglass via Muncaster Castle and provides a vehicle free alternative to explore the valley. A popular visitor area which will require as much engagement and interpretation opportunities as it does simple practical maintenance work in keeping drains and paths open, signs clear and clean, drystone walling to maintain boundaries around Stanley Ghyll and alongside the trails.

Please note, not all roles are open for volunteer recruitment at all times. Details of which roles are currently recruiting can be found on the [volunteering opportunities](#) webpages.

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.