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| **Role title:** | Member of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) |
| **Role location:** | Based at Robinswood Hill Country Park, Gloucester, GL4 6SX. |
| **Role purpose:** | YAG is designed by young people to bring together young people across Gloucestershire and empower them to make a difference for nature. |
| **Time commitment:** | All members are expected to attend quarterly evening meetings (in-person or via zoom). Other planning meetings and activities will be organised by the group. |
| **Start date:** | April 2023 |
| **Point of contact:** | Jennie Scrivens and Claire Garrity |

**Introducing Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

We are Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust – the largest membership organisation in the county dedicated to local wildlife. We aim to play a central role in tackling the ecological and climate emergencies in Gloucestershire, working closely with local communities and our partners. This needs 30% of the land supporting nature’s recovery by 2030 and unlocking the potential of nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. By working in partnership with farmers and landowners, we aim to create ten Nature Recovery Zones where wildlife will thrive alongside food production. These will cover over 60,000 hectares, including increasing our own nature reserves from 1,100 to 1,700 hectares. Alongside this we will collaborate on large scale cross-boundary ecosystem restoration projects.

Our purpose is to ensure nature’s recovery together with the people of Gloucestershire.

Our vision is for a natural world in recovery, where nature-based solutions are tackling the climate crisis and people are taking action for wildlife.

At the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, we believe in supporting and caring for all our colleagues with honesty. We are rooted in our communities and our aim is to make nature inclusive for all. We pride ourselves in being champions for wildlife, advocating passion and pioneering sustainable methods for natures recovery.

Our values reflect each of us being:

A CARING COLLEAGUE – supportive and honest

We are considerate, honest and fair. We make time for each other and actively listen to others concerns or barriers before responding and finding solutions together

ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITIES – making nature inclusive.

We respect each other’s views and recognise and value our different backgrounds and lived experiences.

CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE – passionate and pioneering for nature’s recovery.

We have an urgency for action. We are open to new ideas, encouraged to take risks together, finding creative solutions and learning from our mistakes.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust expects its staff, paid and unpaid, to carry out their duties in a way which consistently exceeds the regulations and expectations of society at large in matters ethical and environmental.

**Introduction to the role**

After a successful first cohort of members, we are now recruiting to maintain a core membership of up to 12 people, who will help us to build a wider network of young people across the county.

Together we will

* *Amplify* the voices of young people,
* *Advise* GWT on barriers and opportunities for youth participation,
* *Connect* young people across the county with a passion for nature.

**Outline of main activities**

We are looking for new members to join YAG, member duties include:

* Contributing to YAG meetings, ensuring everyone has a chance to be heard and to help progress ideas and projects,
* Supporting the YAG team according to your current skills and the areas you want to develop,
* Collaborating with the GWT staff team to give young people a voice in GWT and the Gloucestershire nature sector,
* Supporting the GWT staff team to design events and activities that will be engaging for young people,
* Attend all YAG quarterly meetings (either in person or by zoom). These are usually on an evening in February, April, July and October,
* Attend any appropriate planning meetings, social and learning activities organised/attended by YAG throughout the year. This may include some weekend activities.

All meetings will be arranged in the evenings to accommodate school/work commitments.

Ideally, we would like you to be involved for at least one year to provide consistency to the group.

**Person specification**

YAG is open to everyone, therefore no prior experience is required. We are looking for young people aged 16-25 who are:

* passionate about nature and the environment,
* willing to volunteer their time and fresh ideas,
* keen to learn new skills and make connections in the nature and environment sector,
* dedicated to diversity and inclusion.

**Role benefits and support**

* Support natures recovery and the inclusion of young people,
* Gain experience for your CV,
* Develop new skills and connections,
* Make a difference in your local area,
* Identify new passions and direction,
* Learn how an NGO works from people with experience working in conservation.
* All new volunteers will receive an induction to the Trust and their volunteer role, this will cover your volunteer role description and main tasks of the role.
* YAG will have access to GWT resources, equipment, office space, relevant policies and guides including GWT Mental Health First Aiders

**Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is committed to encouraging equality, diversity, and inclusion among its workforce, and eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation. The Trust’s policy is to provide equality, fairness and respect for all staff and volunteers, ensure no unlawful discrimination against the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation; and to oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination.

A full copy of the policy is available on request.

**There will be opportunities to take up the following leadership roles in the future:**

**Communications Leads**

Duties:

* Collaborate with the GWT Comms team to curate new ways to platform the voice of young people on internal and external communications.
* Collaborate with the GWT comms team to increase young people's representation on GWT socials.
* Reviews and contributes to Wild News (GWT internal newsletter), and the volunteer newsletter.
* Create content for the YAG webpage and write blogs for GWT website.

Desired qualities:

* A social media and comms whizz who keeps up-to-speed with the latest trends and algorithms to help us connect more young people with GWT than ever before!
* A creative person who loves to collaborate with a range of people from different backgrounds.
* Good literacy, vocabulary, grammar, and attention to detail.
* Good communication, teamwork and networking skills.

**Events Leads**

Duties:

* Organise online and in-person socials that help young people who love nature connect with each other with support of the GWT staff team. We hope these events will provide space to develop skills and knowledge, re-energise and maintain young people’s own wellbeing as they fight for nature’s future.
* Support the GWT staff team to design events and activities that will be engaging for young people.
* Collaborate with GWT staff and the wider Gloucestershire Nature and Youth Sectors to mobilise young people for nature.

Desired qualities:

* A well-organised social butterfly who loves bringing people together.
* Great teamwork and communication skills.
* Willingness to connect and collaborate with other organisations and community projects around Gloucestershire.

**Chair**

Duties:

* Calls and coordinates YAG meetings with support from GWT staff to ensure the consistent operation of YAG.
* Chairs (leads) YAG meetings, ensuring everyone has a chance to be heard and actions are taken to progress ideas and projects.
* Create agendas ahead of meetings to ensure engaging and productive discussions that lead to real results for young people.
* Support the other YAG members to deliver their actions from meetings and ask for help with GWT staff where appropriate.
* Works closely with the Young Trustees to report to the Board of Trustees.

Desired qualities:

* A confident people-person who can empower others to have their say and be heard.
* Approachable and engaging personality.
* Good organisation and communication skills.
* Self-motivated and driven.