

Outdoor Learning Volunteer

**Role description**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has nationally and internationally important anthropology, musical instrument and natural history collections, an aquarium, a butterfly house and a range of temporary exhibitions. It is surrounded by 16 acres of beautiful gardens.

**Main purpose of the role**

The Horniman’s Schools Team offers a wide range of popular, high-quality workshops for visiting school groups. We are planning to increase our outdoor learning offer and develop an offer for self-led school groups. These resources are currently in development phase and we are looking for confident and enthusiastic volunteers to help us trial them and evaluate their effectiveness. The role would also involve supporting our Schools Learning Officers with workshops in the Horniman Gardens. These workshops typically include pond dipping and minibeast hunting with children of nursery and primary school age. This is an opportunity for anyone who is looking to gain experience of evaluation and supporting children’s learning outdoors.

Tasks include:

* Distributing and explaining outdoor learning resources and activities to self-led school groups
* Carrying out questionnaires with teachers to evaluate the outdoor learning resources
* Supporting the Schools Learning Officer to prepare, set up, pack down and clean equipment for outdoor learning workshops
* Supporting groups of children in the outdoor activities to use equipment such as sweeping nets, ID keys and magnification pots
* Inspiring enthusiasm and a love of nature in children and accompanying adults who may have little experience of exploring outdoor habitats
* In adverse weather conditions, surveying teachers about how they currently use the gardens during visits and engage with nature

**Level of commitment**

This is a regular, ongoing role volunteering for a half or full day on weekdays during school term time. Typically this would involve volunteering once a week in autumn, spring and summer and once a fortnight during winter. We have a flexible approach to school bookings, so ideally, we are looking for people who could volunteer on different days of the week depending on our teaching schedule.

**This role would suit someone who:**

* Has experience of conducting evaluation, or would like to gain experience of doing this
* Is confident talking to lots of different people of all ages
* Is passionate about nature and outdoor learning
* Would enjoy supporting children to learn outdoors
* Is happy to spend time outdoors in all weathers and in muddy environments
* Is able to stand for sustained periods of time
* Is able to carry and push equipment across uneven surfaces

**The museum offers volunteers:**

* A supportive, learning environment and the opportunity to gain valuable experience in supporting children’s learning outdoors
* Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London; lunch expenses if volunteering a full day
* Free entry to paid areas of the Horniman museum

**To apply**

Please ask for an application form and send it to volunteering@horniman.ac.uk

This role is selective, and we will hold informal interviews*.*

NB. Please mark ‘Outdoor Learning Volunteer’ in the subject line of your email.

**Closing date for applications**: Sunday 4 September