

Outdoor Activity Volunteer

Nature Detectives

**Role description**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has been open since 1901 when the tea trader and philanthropist, Frederick Horniman, first opened his house and extraordinary collection of objects to the local community. Since then, the Horniman has grown significantly and includes internationally important collections of Anthropology and musical instruments, as well as an Aquarium, a Butterfly House and Natural History Gallery – all surrounded by 16 acres of beautiful Gardens.

**Main purpose**

The Horniman is currently undergoing the Nature + Love transformation project to enable us to widen our audiences to better match the diversity of the London population, and to place environmental sustainability and a commitment to fighting the climate emergency at our heart.

This role, based in our small, friendly volunteering team, will focus on running free self-led family activities in the Horniman Gardens across the summer holidays. The programme, called Nature Detectives, will encourage families to explore nature in the gardens. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us welcome families and show them the activities. The activities include looking for minibeasts, measuring tree trunks, and drawing plants. This is an opportunity for anyone who is looking to gain experience of family outdoor activities and evaluation.

**Tasks include:**

* Engaging with families and children in an enthusiastic and friendly way, particularly about the gardens and nature
* Supporting families to enjoy self-led activities by explaining activities to visitors and children and supporting them to have fun
* Evaluation including visitor count, visitor comments, and the success of each activity
* Set-up and take-down resources

**This role would suit someone who:**

* Is passionate about nature and family engagement.
* Is confident talking to lots of different people of all age including children.
* Would enjoy supporting children and their families in outdoors activities.
* Is happy being outdoors (in all weathers) for periods of time.
* Can carry and push equipment across uneven surfaces.
* Understands our values. We are inclusive and welcoming to everyone. We are caring and respectful towards each other.

**Level of commitment and dates:**

This role will run weekly on Thursdays for 6 weeks over the summer holidays. We ask that you can make a minimum of 4 of the 6 dates. The sessions will run from 10.30am – 12.30pm (morning) and 1.00pm – 3.00pm (afternoon). You can join for either morning, afternoon, or both.

There is also an optional session in September if you would like to contribute to the evaluation of the programme.

*Volunteers who volunteer morning + afternoon will be reimbursed for lunch costs up to £6 each day.*

**Sessions running weekly on Thursdays:**

* **July 24**
* **July 31**
* **Aug 7**
* **Aug 14**
* **Aug 21**
* **Aug 28**
* Sept 4 (optional evaluation session)

**The museum offers volunteers:**

* A supportive, learning environment and the opportunity to gain valuable experience.
* Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London; lunch expenses are available if volunteering a full day.
* Free entry to paid areas of the Horniman museum.
* A 20% discount at the café and the shop

**To apply**

Please complete the [application form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FFimgZcoukmo6OaUeUjjv_S5dDpIPgFGn_UX4ifdme9UOVBJTFlBQUhCVEtWVVpJOUROODcyWVRQRS4u) or email [volunteering@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@horniman.ac.uk) for a Word copy.

This role is open to all applicants aged 15 and over

**Closing date for applications**: Thursday 26 June 10.00pm

**Interview date:** Friday 4 July

**Induction:** Thursday 10 July

We welcome applications from people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. A diverse group of volunteers makes for a more enjoyable experience for everyone!

Role reviewed and approved by Volunteering Manager 28/05/25