

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION



Volunteer Role / Title
Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – Volunteer Grey Squirrel Control Officer
Location
Scottish Borders
How many volunteers are needed?
Not limited.
How many hours per day/per week are you needed?
Flexible. As many as you are able to give.
On which days are you needed?
Any day you are available.
On what date do we want you to start?
ASAP
End Date (if applicable)
Ongoing
Minimum commitment we require from you (eg 1 day per week for 6 months). If any.
Four days per month (from 30mins up to a few hours on each day).
Objective(s) of your volunteer role
<p>Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels are working in partnership with the Scottish Borders red squirrel networks to deliver red squirrel conservation in Berwickshire, Teviot and Rule, Upper Tweed Valley and the surrounding areas. Together they utilise targeted grey squirrel control to prevent replacement of red squirrels by the invasive non-native grey squirrels. The control is delivered by a combination of project staff, landowners funded via The Forestry Grant Scheme, and volunteers, all trapping grey squirrels in carefully chosen project areas. You'll be an ambassador for the networks and the project, providing support to existing volunteers, project staff and partner organisations to deliver the project's aims across the area.</p> <p>A Volunteer Grey Squirrel Control Officer could do as little or as much as they would like, from dispatching grey squirrels for trap loan participants (requiring maybe 30mins/1hr in the morning or the evening) to setting up their own traps in an area of woodland close to where they live. The role is very flexible and very much tailored towards the availability of the volunteer.</p>

Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with local trap hosts • Trap placement, setting and maintenance • Humane dispatch of grey squirrels • Record keeping
Description of the personal attributes/skills/qualifications required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local to the area. • A people-person with good communication skills. • Enthusiastic about protecting red squirrels. • Diplomatic & tactful – able to explain Project strategy, persuade others to get involved and deal with complaints. • Adaptable and flexible to cover all varied aspects of the role. • Ideal for someone looking to develop a career in conservation, retired gamekeeper, or country enthusiast. • Relevant firearm licence and training preferred but not essential. • Full clean driver’s licence.
Support/training?
Training in basic first aid, trap maintenance, dispatch methods, risk assessments and using a GPS will be offered to suitable candidates.
Who is the contact person/line manager for enquiries?
Neil O’Donnell, Administrator, Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels – squirrels@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk
Closing date for applications
None (we will recruit suitable candidates as they apply).
When will interviews be held?
An informal chat will be carried out after individuals have completed a volunteer application form.
Can SWT provide expenses e.g. for travel or branded clothing?
Some travel expenses paid to cover fuel costs at a rate of 35p per mile.
Will you want references for volunteers before appointing or PVG disclosure?
We will require 2 references.
Other (Any age restriction, lifts available? Disabled access?)
A good level of fitness is desirable.