

# Becoming a Project Leader with BTCV



## Have you

- Enjoyed a BTCV Conservation Holiday?
- Achieved great satisfaction from practical conservation?
- Been working with local people on BTCV day projects?

## Are you

- Looking to develop a career in conservation?
- Unemployed and hoping to develop skills to get you a job?
- Retired with time and skills to offer?
- Ready for the next challenge

## Do you

- Want to help others to enjoy conservation work?
- Like helping people to be successful?
- Feel that you would like to find out if you have the ability to lead a group?

## If the answer is yes, then why not train to be a Project Leader with BTCV?

Every year our Project Leaders help over 4,000 volunteers enjoy a Conservation Holiday, while gaining new skills and putting something back into the environment.

As a BTCV Project Leader you will experience some of the most stunning scenery the UK has to offer. You will gain the satisfaction of knowing you have made a real difference to the environment. You will meet volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, and make friends that will last a lifetime. These are just a few of the reasons why many of our leaders come back year after year. So don't just think about it, give it a go!

## DEVELOP YOURSELF, YOUR SKILLS, YOUR CONFIDENCE

### What sort of activities do volunteer project leaders lead?

Effective volunteer project leaders are an essential part of all conservation volunteering projects:

- BTCV Conservation Holidays lasting from two days to two weeks
- BTCV day projects
- Associated local groups
- Community groups
- Projects involving people with special needs

## **Who can lead for BTCV?**

BTCV recruits its project leaders from experienced volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life. If you have no skills or experience, we suggest you book on to a few BTCV Conservation Holidays or try some day projects to see what they are like. Take a look at our website to find out what opportunities exist locally to help you gain the practical experience you need.

## **How soon can I lead?**

Once you have some experience of BTCV projects and are registered you can start leading straight away. Our leaders usually work in pairs and as a new leader you will work with an experienced partner while your confidence builds and training received. You set the pace of your own development, so don't worry we won't throw you in at the deep end! You will work with a volunteer manager throughout your leadership with BTCV to support you and let you know how you are doing.

## **Can I lead International Conservation Holidays?**

BTCV currently runs approximately 90 International conservation holidays in 20 different countries. Leading internationally is a substantially different job. You would need a considerable number of skills and a lot of experience. As a guideline, you will need to have successfully led at least six conservation holidays in the UK before you will be considered as an international Project Leader. There is further training and briefings. But if this is your goal, stick with it. Ultimately you could find yourself leading all over the world!

## **How much will leading cost me?**

Being a volunteer Project Leader with BTCV, will cost you time, energy, enthusiasm, patience, etc.

Your expenses will be covered.

## **BTCV Leaders' Training and Support Scheme**

### **What does BTCV's leadership training cover?**

Training covers most of what you will need to lead projects for BTCV. The rest comes from experience.

- Leading groups
- Project organisation and safety
- Training and education
- Volunteer Welfare
- Working with the Public, volunteers and BTCV
- Driving
- First Aid

Within each module we set out clearly what will be expected of you. The framework will help you identify and recognise the capabilities and skills you already have. The training is designed to help you develop those you need.

## **What are the benefits of the scheme to leaders?**

- You will be given a Volunteer Manager with whom to discuss your development as a Project Leader
- You will have the opportunity to lead all over the UK
- As you gain more capabilities and skills we will provide a written record of your skills that you may use as a reference.
- You will be able to collect evidence of your competencies to help you gain NVQ units.
- It may enable you to travel the world as an International Leader.

## **How long does training take?**

This depends very much on you, the skills you bring with you and the time you can devote to your training and leading.

Most courses last for one or two days, a few for longer. Projects you can lead with supervision and coaching last from one day to three weeks. The more leading you do, the more quickly your skills will develop.

## **How do I join the scheme?**

Contact your local BTCV office and ask if there is a Volunteer Manager who needs leaders. You will then have to complete the registration form and return it to the Leaders' Administrator at the address overleaf.

## **What happens next?**

Once you have registered with the scheme, you will be sent a Leaders' Training and Support file. Please only register if you are committed to leading, as providing support for new leaders is costly for BTCV.

Once you have read through your file, your volunteer manager will discuss your training needs with you and advise you on which training to attend.

We try to make the registration process as straightforward as possible. If, however, you have any problems or further questions, there is always someone on the end of a phone who will be happy to help and advise you.

## **For further information contact:**

### **The Leaders' Administrator**

BTCV Sedum House

Mallard Way

Doncaster

DN4 8DB

Tel: 01302 388841

Email: [leaders@btcv.org.uk](mailto:leaders@btcv.org.uk)

**Website: [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org)**