

# GREEN CHAMPIONS



## WILD TIMES, WILD PLACES with THE GREEN TEAM

This document lays out opportunities for the involvement of HBOS staff to become **Green Champions** for the Green Team.

We will offer teams of employees the opportunity to go wild in wild places, carrying out a range of practical conservation activities that benefit wildlife and enhance local areas for people's enjoyment.

The Green Team specialise in connecting people to the natural environment through a range of challenging and stimulating tasks and activities. Discovery, exploration and fun whilst putting something back...

### ***The Green Team***

The Green Team is a voluntary organisation committed to working with young people to restore and conserve green spaces as an important part of learning about Scotland's natural heritage. We currently run 2 programmes:

**Green Volunteers:** A programme of Sunday and weekend residential projects for 14-25 year olds, led by adult volunteers trained by the Green Team. These groups learn about the environment through projects that make improvements to countryside sites for people and wildlife.

**Green Shoots:** A series of 10-12 week programmes for young people who are excluded from mainstream activities through their behaviour, mental health problems, involvement with the criminal justice system or poor attendance school. These young people take part in a similar programme of environmental activity with greater emphasis on increasing their self-esteem, communication skills and teamwork using the environment as the medium.

Each year we work with over 200 young people and carry out over 100 project days. We are supported by over 40 volunteers whom we value greatly. These programmes are funded by grants and donations.

## ***Green Champions- what we can offer***

Green Champions offers tailor made opportunities for HBOS staff to take part in practical conservation to make a significant improvement to the countryside. We can work with groups of up to 45 but our preference is for smaller groups of up to 15 as this enables us to build the team more effectively and develop a real sense of connection.

**Countryside sites:** The Green Team is not limited to a single site and currently works at over 30 countryside locations each year including woodlands, coastal sites, country estates, wildlife reserves, country parks, footpaths, cycleways and even islands. Each site is special in some way for its landscape, natural heritage or public access opportunities.

**Practical tasks:** Tasks can include woodland management, footpath improvements, clearance of invasive species, habitat improvements and improvements to site infrastructure. Tasks are site dependent and seasonal.

**Challenges:** The opportunity to work as a team, problem solve, communicate effectively and involve everyone. Also the chance to increase individual skills, abilities and confidence in arrange of areas.

**Exploration:** We offer exciting new ways to explore the site and develop a deeper appreciation of what makes it special.

**Environmental activities:** We can offer a huge range of activities from survival skills such as building and lighting a fire, shelter building, carving marshmallow sticks or rope making, to more creative group activities such as poetry or environmental art.

## ***The Opportunities***

**Team Days:** A day spent at a countryside site taking part in a practical conservation activity.

**Team residentials:** 2 or 3 day projects with comfortable hostel style self-catering accommodation. Residentials afford much greater team building opportunities with the additional team challenge of cooking a meal together. Evening activities such a bat walks, night sky activities or team quizzes optional.

**Team programmes:** A series of consecutive days or a day a week, to build a deeper relationship with a single site. Work towards one big conservation task or experience a range of different tasks.

## ***What we can provide:***

**Staff:** An experienced and qualified leader who will manage the activity safely whilst providing a fun and stimulating day. First aid qualified with lots of tricks up their sleeve.

**Tools & equipment:** We will provide all tools and personal protective safety equipment such as hard hats, safety spectacles and gloves.

**Refreshments and lunch:** We will provide tea, coffee and snacks. We can also provide lunch on site by prior arrangement or in some cases identify a cosy café close by or staff can provide their own packed lunch.

**Transport:** We can provide minibus transport or coaches for an additional cost. We would encourage staff to travel together for both the team spirit and the detrimental impact lots of car journeys have on the environment.

### ***Green Champions – what you get out of it***

- A team building/staff development opportunity
- The chance to build on existing personal skills and discover some new ones
- A fun and satisfying day
- Getting to know new people and old friends in a different way
- Enjoying a day out in beautiful and invigorating surroundings
- Taking part in something that will have lasting benefits to communities of people and wildlife
- An experience to reflect upon

### ***How the Green Team benefits:***

As a voluntary organisation we are always on the look out for new volunteer leaders for our Green Volunteers programme. After a taste of being out with the Green Team we may well be able to inspire employees to come out with us in their spare time as well.

Green Champions will directly benefit our other programmes particularly Green Shoots by enabling vital work to take place with young people who are excluded from participation in many mainstream activities.

### ***The costs:***

£75 per person per day.

Accommodation costs £25 per person per night including food.

Minibus hire through the Green Team £70 per day.

### ***How to book***

Please get in touch with Penny Radway at the Green Team to discuss your team's requirements. Booking information will then be sent out.

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