

Skills for Rewilding

Tree Nursery and Horticulture Traineeship

Trees for Life are recruiting two tree nursery and horticulture trainees, to be based at the tree nursery on Dundreggan Estate near Loch Ness. The nursery grows 70,000+ trees per year from seeds or cuttings, all of which are native to Scotland. The trees grown are used on projects associated with restoration of the ancient Caledonian Forest, which used to cover much of the Highlands.

The aim of the project is for trainees, over a 12-month period, to gain experience in all techniques and processes associated with tree nursery production. Trainees will be supported and mentored by members of the highly skilled Trees for Life staff through this process, allowing time to learn the skills necessary to go on and gain employment in the sector.

Traineeship experiences and learning

- Seed collection expeditions
- Seed processing and storage
- Working with volunteers and developing leadership skills
- Watering/irrigation
- Pricking out
- Tool use and maintenance
- Propagation of Aspen from root cuttings
- Seed sowing
- Pest and disease checks
- Use of biological controls
- Tree planting
- Helping develop innovative techniques to encourage aspen to flower or to propagate scarce mountain and pinewood plants

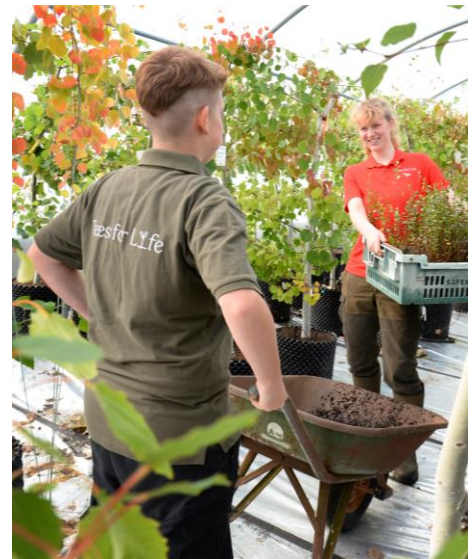


- Four days a week learning by doing on the tree nursery
- One day a week independent study towards a Horticulture Level 2 SVQ.
- There will be opportunities to go on work placements with external organisations making links with potential future employers and increasing knowledge about horticulture and tree production processes. In addition, there will be the chance to join in with activities on the other traineeships. There will be an opportunity to gain a first aid qualification and health and safety/risk assessment training will be given.
- Working with a large number of volunteers is a highlight of these traineeships, providing constant interest and enabling the development of many transferable skills.



Desirable attributes for this traineeship include being:

- Passionate about the environment
- Willing to learn
- Friendly
- Patient
- Good social skills
- Team worker
- Able to work well individually or in groups
- Reliable
- Trustworthy and honest
- Good attention to detail
- Hardworking
- Responsible
- Good timekeeping
- Flexible (happy to help with whatever needs doing)
- Willing to work in cold/hot, wet or midge conditions.



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