

Unpaid Work Placements with Exmoor National Park Authority

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) recognises the value of offering work placements to students and those returning to the workplace.

For the person on the placement, periods spent within a workplace can form an essential part of their education or return to work by:

- Helping to identify the most suitable type of work for them
- Providing work experience in a work environment
- Developing new skills or updating old skills
- Building confidence

As a host employer, the Authority benefits as a placement can:

- Help achieve objectives linked to National Park purposes
- Provide an opportunity to increase the understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the work of the Authority
- Develop links and raise our profile with local and national communities such as schools, universities and community groups
- Increase the future applicant pool for jobs within the Authority
- Provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practice

However, as a small Authority, ENPA is only able to offer a small number of placements each year and there are age restrictions on some types of placement. Staff who offer to supervise individuals on work experience placements do so voluntarily with the full support and appreciation of the Authority. Individuals may apply for one of the following types of placement:

Work Shadowing – this type of placement is normally offered to those under the Minimum School Leaving Age (MSLA). During a work shadowing placement the placement holder accompanies and observes an employee during their working day and undertakes supervised low risk activities. This allows the placement holder to gain a greater understanding of the role the employee(s) perform and of the Authority as a whole. Placements for children must be within a low risk environment such as Exmoor House or the National Park Centres.

Work Experience – this type of placement may be offered to young people over 16 years and adults. During a work experience placement the placement holder may accompany and observe an employee but will also take part in work activities. Activities undertaken will depend on the age and experience of the placement holder but may include anything from basic administrative tasks to running a small project.

Due to the nature of their work, placements with the Ranger Services team (or other staff working in remote/lone working environments) can only be offered to those aged 18 or over.

If you are interested in a work placement with Exmoor National Park Authority please write to Rachel Oxenham - Personnel Officer, with details of the type of placement you are interested in, what you would like to gain from the experience and the dates you are available to attend. Please state your age if under 18 years of age.