

Volunteering for Friends of Troopers Hill



Corporate/group volunteering

Friends of Troopers Hill are pleased to welcome groups who wish to come to Troopers Hill to help maintain this unique site. We have volunteers who have received Health & Safety training from Bristol City Council to enable them to run sessions. The volunteers will prepare risk assessments and give a briefing on the day.

The work will be agreed with Bristol Parks in advance and be carried out in accordance with the site Management plan which can be seen at www.troopers-hill.org.uk/plan

The things you need to know

1. Best time of year - October to February, when you will not disturb birds nesting. There is work to do all year round but a much wider range of more interesting and beneficial work can be done from October to February.
2. Maximum number of people - 20 because of the number of tools and volunteer work party leaders we have available.
3. Minimum number of people - 10. If you are a small group please contact us to come along to one of our regular first Saturday of the month work parties.
4. Work is likely to involve cutting back scrub, such as brambles and saplings, which we do to protect the special acid grass and heathland from disappearing.
5. We supply tools, gloves, volunteer work party leaders. Insurance will be provided by Bristol City Council.
6. Dress code - sensible, covered footwear for slopes and rough ground, trousers and long sleeved tops to protect you from scratches. Dress for the weather.
7. Fitness is an issue – You will be on an open hillside, on rough, sloping ground and doing physical work including carrying anything you cut to a dumping site. Do think about things like backs, knees and whether this is the right activity for you. You may have some scratches by the end of the work party. An example of a group visit is on <http://tinyurl.com/TH-Defra>

We always emphasise on work parties that you are here to have fun and not overdo things. We do take regular breaks and encourage people to take a break if they are

tired. The emphasis is on enjoying achieving a rewarding result, not a hard, dreary slog.

8. We have no toilet facilities on site. We could hire a toilet but you would have to bear the cost about £60-£70. Alternatives are for nearby local people to offer their facilities or to make a donation to a nearby local church in exchange for access to their facilities (this could include the use of a room for lunch).

9. Bring your own water and picnic.

10. Organisations like Avon Wildlife Trust charge a fee to run corporate volunteer work parties. We do not BUT

a) we would very much appreciate a donation.

b) if you fail to turn up on the day without reasonable notice, or have significantly fewer volunteers (5 or more) than agreed we will invoice you for up to £100. This is not to recover our costs but to encourage your volunteers to turn up so that we do not waste the time of the volunteer work party leaders who have made their time available for you, sometimes taking a day off work. We will ask for contact details for invoicing prior to the work party. A deposit cheque is an alternative.

11. Weather – some parts of the Hill can become very slippery when wet and so some tasks are not safe to carry out in the rain. We will try and find alternative tasks, but sometimes it will be necessary to curtail or cancel sessions if the weather is too extreme. In the event of a poor forecast we will discuss the situation with you on the day before your visit.

The things we need to know:

1. The number of volunteers
2. The dates and time from and to you want to work.
3. Completed registration forms from all your volunteers <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/WorkParties/WPForm.pdf>. They can be handed to the work party leader on the day but need to be completed in advance.
4. Contact details for your lead organiser.

To find out more and to discuss possible tasks, dates/times please email friends@troopers-hill.org.uk or call 0117 947 5037.