

# Youth Board Recruitment Pack





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Registered charity  
no. 262777



# The opportunity

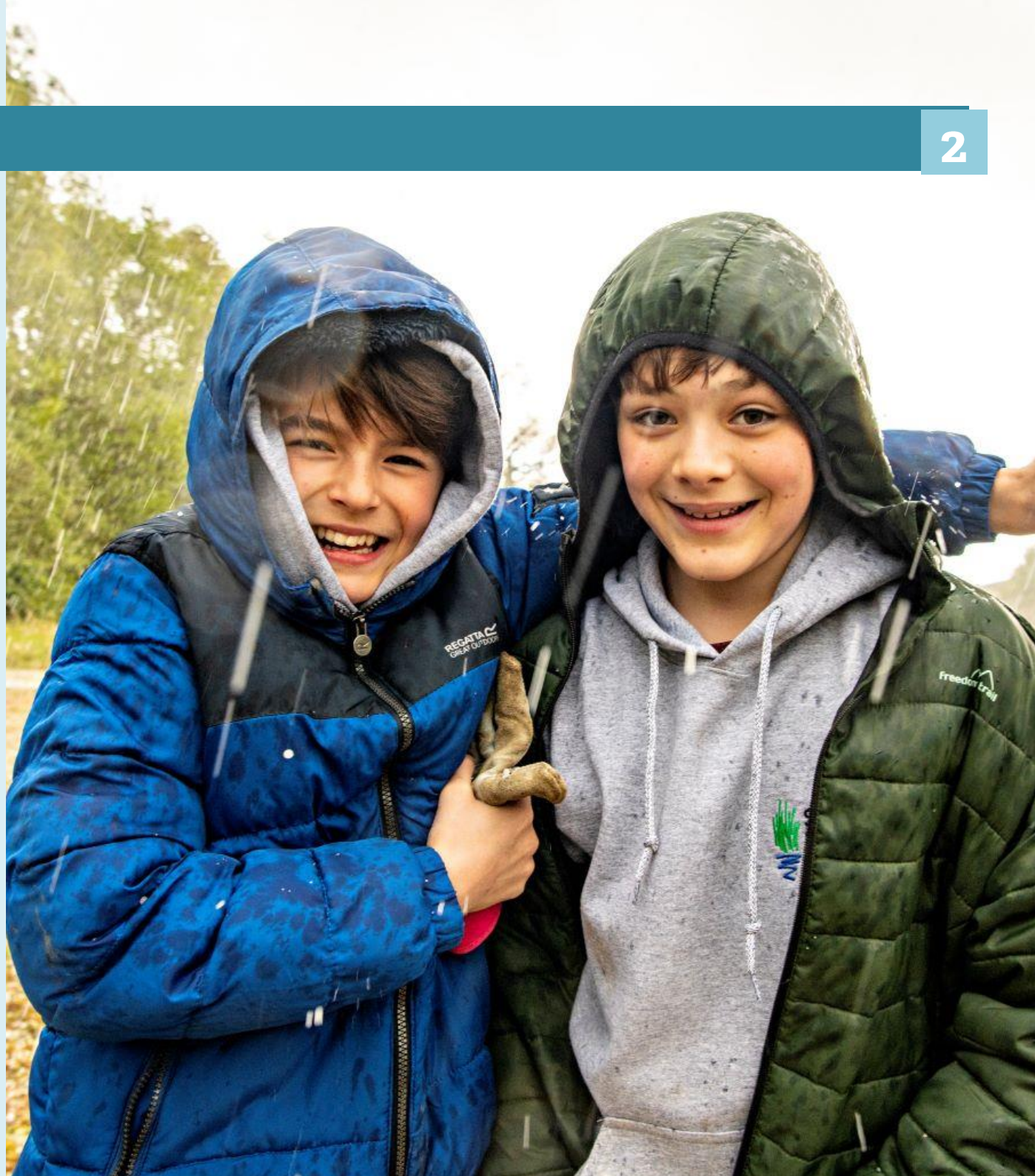
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Help us deliver our vision for a wilder Suffolk

Are you aged between 11-24? Do you live in Suffolk and love our local wildlife? Do you care about the environment and want to help protect it? We want twelve young people to join our Youth Board.

We set up our Youth Board because we know youth voices need to be part of conversations about how we protect nature. If we want to make sure our wildlife is protected for years to come, we need young people's thoughts, knowledge, and opinions.

Our Youth Board is the voice of Suffolk's young people. We empower our members to take action for nature, get involved with decision making, and campaign for environmental issues. The Youth Board meet once a month online and get involved with regular campaigns, projects and events both online and in person.





# About us

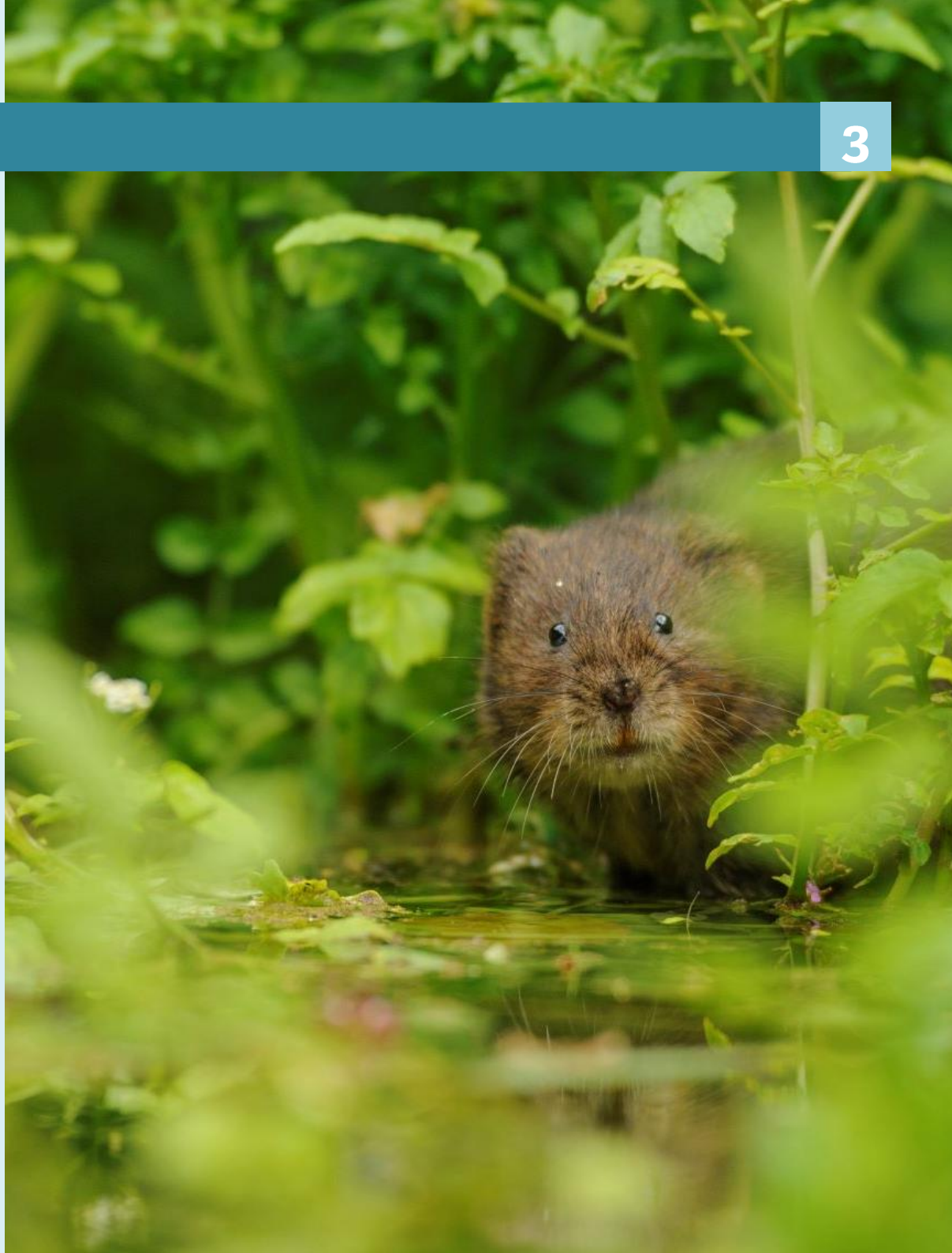
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Suffolk Wildlife Trust is the county's nature charity – the only organisation dedicated wholly to safeguarding Suffolk's wildlife and countryside.

Founded in 1961 Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been leading conservation efforts in Suffolk and safeguarded some of the county's most important wildlife areas as nature reserves.

- We are supported by 27,000 members and 1,300 volunteers.
- We care for nearly 8,000 acres of Suffolk's most precious habitats in our 50 nature reserves.
- We advise planners, landowners, communities and individuals on improving land for wildlife - to create a Living Landscape that is rich in wildlife where species can move out of protected sites through networks of linked up habitat.
- All our nature reserves are free for everyone to enjoy and our 7 Wild Learning centres provide opportunities for all ages to discover, explore and learn about the natural world. Last year we led 400 school visits and ran 550 events, including activities organized by our network of volunteer-led wildlife groups. In all, more than 60,000 people were involved with a wildlife activity organised by the Trust and many more enjoyed our reserves independently.
- We have a dedicated team of 9 Trustees and more than 70 members of staff.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is part of the Wildlife Trusts partnership – a federated charity made up from 46 individual Wildlife Trusts managing more than 2,300 nature reserves and with 850,000 members.





## Suffolk Wildlife Trust is here to enable everyone to play their part in creating a wilder Suffolk

Our nature reserves are places of tranquillity and 'naturalness' where people can connect with wildlife. Our management principles reflect this, by favouring natural processes that create complex habitat mosaics and offer the best opportunities for wildlife.

Beyond our reserves, Suffolk's wildlife is under pressure from intensive agriculture, new development and coastal change. We are working with landowners to influence the management of the wider countryside for wildlife. Future predicted climate change is likely to further impact on species and habitats, so we are working to create a more resilient countryside, with better, bigger and more joined up spaces for nature to enable wildlife to adapt to these changes.

We believe life with nature is good for us all and that society will care more and do more to help if people feel connected to nature. So, through our wide-ranging learning activities and the visitor experience we create at our centres we are striving to make nature part of everyday life, for everyone.

Our values reflect this:

- We will always act in the best interests of wildlife.
- We will secure a future for wildlife in Suffolk by connecting people to nature.
- We will make a difference by inspiring and empowering local action for wildlife.
- We are a learning organisation and will embrace new ideas to achieve our vision





## What will the Youth Board do?

- Be a voice for Suffolk's young people and for nature.
- Allow young people to help shape Suffolk Wildlife Trust's future.
- Inspire and enable young people to become tomorrow's leaders and changemakers.
- Get involved with campaigns and projects to help protect Suffolk's wildlife.

## What will you gain?

- Develop communication skills through public speaking, campaigning and opportunities to write content for our website, newsletters and social media.
- Take part in regional and national campaigns for nature.
- Network with young people who are passionate about making a difference for wildlife as well as experts in the environmental sector.
- Free Suffolk Wildlife Trust membership while you are an active member of the Youth Board.
- Access to training days for members of the Youth Board and Suffolk Wildlife Trust webinars.
- The opportunity to represent the Youth Board to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Board of Trustees and to attend joint away days.
- The opportunity to develop skills and experience which will boost your UCAS application form and CV.





## What skills do you need?

- Communicate your and other young people's views.
- Inspire others to get on board with Suffolk Wildlife Trust's campaigns.
- Speak up in group discussions when you have an idea or opinion.
- Keep up with monthly online meetings, in person meetings, and projects.
- Respond to regular e-mails.

## Commitment

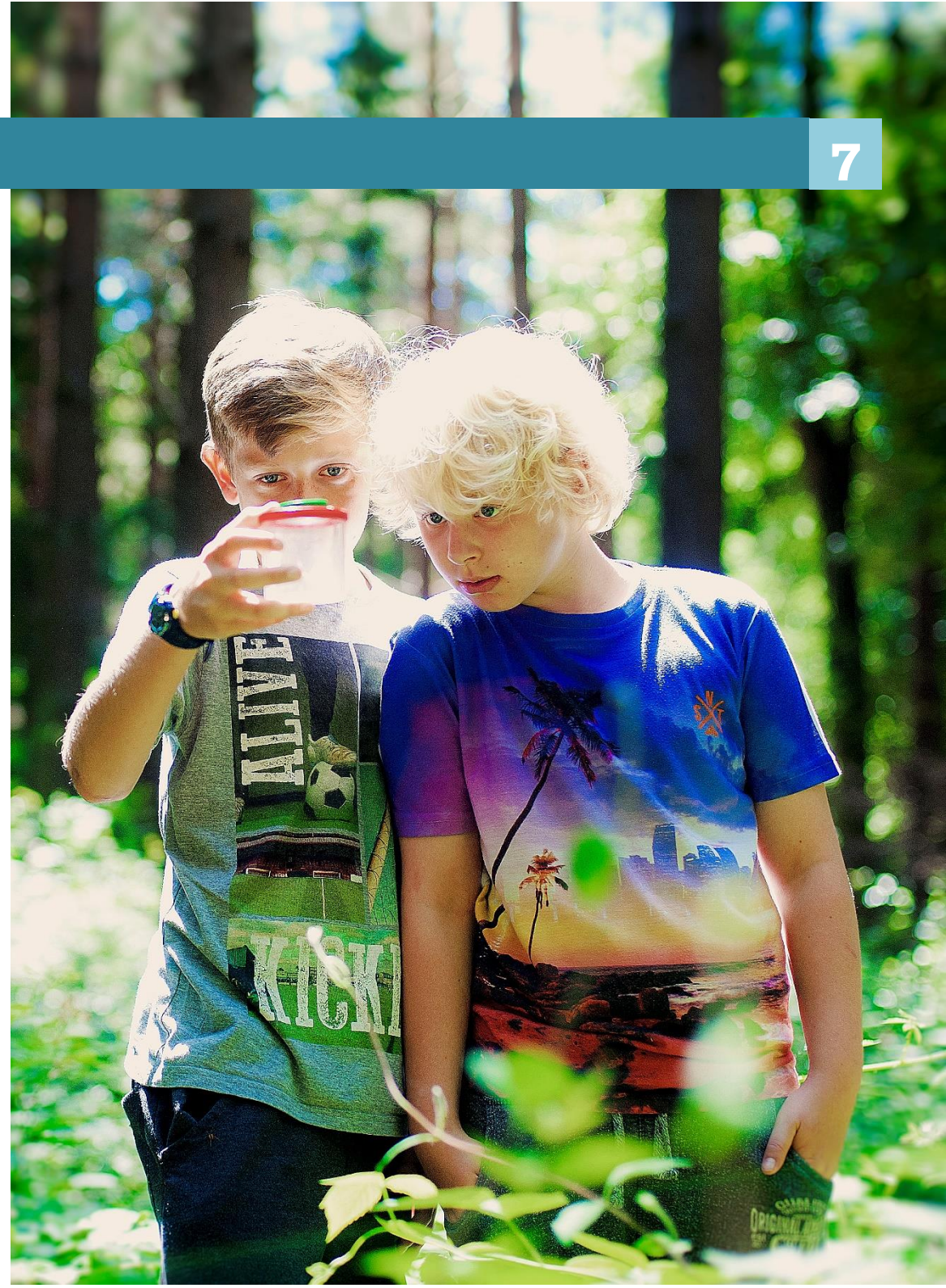
We expect members of the Youth Board to:

- Join monthly online meetings. These are on the third Monday of the month.
- Join additional in person meetings. These won't clash with school, higher education, or normal working hours.
- Attend additional training sessions, such as social media training.
- Spend time working on tasks set in Youth Board meetings. Such as working on campaigns, reading relevant materials, and responding to e-mails.
- Promote Suffolk Wildlife Trust campaigns on social media and in schools and workplaces.
- Take part in Suffolk Wildlife Trust events.
- Be an active member of the Youth Board for at least one year and attend a minimum of nine meetings.



## How will we support you?

- Welcome you to the team with an induction session.
- Register you as a volunteer (or young volunteer if under 18) with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, giving you access to volunteer benefits such as volunteer training days and social events.
- Provide a named member of staff who will be your point of contact for any questions throughout your time on our Youth Board.
- Provide training days to help you with your Youth Board role. This will include opportunities offered to all our volunteers, as well as exclusive youth board opportunities.
- We will help cover travel costs if this is a barrier.





# Key terms

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Meetings will be a mix of virtual sessions and in person meet ups across the county. This will give you a chance to explore our beautiful Suffolk nature reserves.

The post is a voluntary position for a minimum of one year.

Evening and weekend activities will be necessary to fulfil the role.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. Diversity and inclusion are extremely important to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We would like to invite young people from all backgrounds to apply and encourage applications from people underrepresented in the environmental sector. This includes young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, young people with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ young people.

We are dedicated to creating a workplace where young people from all backgrounds feel welcome, listened to and valued.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust will work to help any young person fulfil their role. We believe that financial background should not stop you from applying. We will work to help cover costs, such as travel costs, for those that need additional support.





# How to apply

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Please see our website and our online application form to apply.

To arrange an informal chat about the role, please contact our Youth Development Officer Katharine at [youth.development@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:youth.development@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

**The deadline for applications is midnight on 20 March 2023**

**Interviews for successful applicants will be 1 April 2023 at our Head Office Brooke House, Aschbocking.**

**All applicants should make sure they are available on this day in case they are asked for interview. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer alternative interview dates.**

The interview will be an informal and friendly discussion to help us get to know you better, and for you to find out more about us and our Youth Board.

We regret that we are unable to contact those who are not successful. If you would like any feedback on your application and to find out about other volunteering opportunities with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, please contact Katharine at [youth.development@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:youth.development@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

**Thank you for your interest in Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

