Stoneywell



Volunteer Role Description

Stoneywell Host

**What is a Stoneywell Host?**

Hosts have a vital role to play in helping visitors to have an inspiring and enjoyable time at Stoneywell. They may lead a small party of visitors around the house or be based in one of the principal rooms. Hosts also help to protect the health and safety of visitors, and play a part in safeguarding the property and its assets.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
* Meeting people from all walks of life and making new friends
* Improving your communication skills
* Enjoying new experiences and learning something new every day

**What’s involved?**

* Welcoming visitors to the site
* Learning about Stoneywell as a whole
* Helping visitors to discover more by telling stories and anecdotes relevant to the property, its theme and history
* Being able to adapt your approach to meet the needs of different audiences, for example family groups, bearing in mind any access and inclusion requirements they may have
* If leading a tour being aware of the need to balance a welcoming and informal approach with the need for good time management
* Attending relevant training and workshops
* Participating in peer support and evaluation of other Hosts
* Following security procedures to prevent theft or damage
* Being responsible for the evacuation of visitors in an emergency
* Being prepared to cover for other suitable roles as required, for example welcoming at visitor reception or ticket checking
* Becoming familiar with and then following the National Trust’s Health and Safety Policy at all times

**This role will suit people who…** have an enthusiastic and friendly manner, are confident in talking to groups of people, have good time management skills and are keen to learn.

**Extra information**

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| **Your place** | Stoneywell  |
| **Time commitment** | Stoneywell will be open seven days a week from 10.00am to 5.00pm and from February to November. Attendance should ideally be at least one day per fortnight but split days can be catered for..  |
|  **Manager** | TBA |
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| **Expenses** | Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place up to a max of 40 mile round trip will be paid. Other reasonable expenses agreed in advance |

**About the National Trust**

The National Trust is a registered charity and is completely independent of Government. We rely for income on membership fees, donations and legacies, and money raised from our commercial operations. We are supported by 3.8 million members and 61,000 volunteers without whom we simply could not manage. We protect and open to the public over 300 historic houses and gardens and 49 industrial monuments and mills. But it doesn’t stop there. We also look after forests, woods, fens, beaches, farmland, downs, moorland, islands, archaeological remains, castles, nature reserves, villages – for places, for ever, for everyone.

**About Stoneywell**

Stoneywell, (in Ulverscroft Leicestershire), is a Grade II\* listed Arts and Crafts cottage completed in 1899. Ernest Gimson, son of a Leicester industrialist, and a luminary of the Arts & Crafts Movement,designed it as a holiday house for his elder brother, Sydney. The cottage has passed with themajority of its contents through three generations. It became a full-time residence fromthe middle of the last century – most recently being the home of Donald and Anne Gimson, whobrought up their two children there. The cottage is surrounded by a garden and the grounds include an ancient woodland. Stoneywell was acquired by the National Trust in late 2012 and the intention is to open to the public in early 2014.