



PRESS RELEASE

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EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO INSPIRE LOCAL CHILDREN ABOUT WATERWAYS WILDLIFE AND HISTORY

The Canal & River Trust is looking for volunteers who can help teach school children about some of Staffordshire's most historic and popular canalside spots.

The charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales, is hoping to recruit a team of education volunteers who can bring the history of their local canals to life. The volunteers would form part of the Trust's *Explorers* education programme aimed at 7-11 year olds.

The *Explorers* volunteers will lead sessions for primary schools, Cub Scouts and Brownie groups, that extend from the classroom to the waterside, and include everything from explaining how canals were built to helping children to be safe by the water. They will also be talking about the wonderful wildlife, history and characters of the area's 200 year old canals.

As well as fun learning activities and visit ideas the *Explorers* programme also offers free themed workshops in school and out on the towpath along with downloadable lesson plans and resources. All activities and materials are linked to the National Curriculum.

Sarah Cook, education coordinator at the Canal & River Trust says: "The Canal & River Trust's *Explorers* programme is all about encouraging children to explore their local canal or river and use them as a way of learning about a wide variety of subjects.

"Staffordshire is famous for its waterways and in particular the Trent & Mersey and Caldon canals and fantastic Etruria Museum. We're looking for education volunteers who can really bring that history – as well as a range of other subjects - to life.

"We'd really like to hear from anyone who thinks they can help us to inspire and enthuse young people about our wonderful waterways."

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

The Trust is looking for people who are confident leading organised school and group activities. The volunteers will be required to work on week days during term time and will have the support of an education officer.

Anyone wanting to get involved or get more information should contact Sarah Cook on 07715 377788 or at sarah.cook@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

For more information about volunteering for the Trust's *Explorers* education program visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/volunteers

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For further media requests please contact: Helen Hall on 077177 60284 or Helen.hall@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms

The Trust's learning programme, **Canal & River Explorers**, has been specially designed to help children discover canals and rivers while having lots of fun. We provide learning resources linked to the National Curriculum, trails, water safety sessions, ideas for badges, challenges and other activities. www.canalriverexplorers.org.uk @CRTEsplorers