



What is a Garden Host?

Garden Hosts provide a warm welcome for all visitors, helping them to explore and learn more about the four acres of garden Stoneywell so that they have an enjoyable and memorable visit. You will also play a role in conservation and health and safety by keeping an eye on wear and tear in the garden, and being aware of any access issues/hazards.

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 the great outdoors and learning something new every day

What's involved?

- Providing a warm, friendly and informed welcome to all visitors
- Learning about the history and contents of the gardens so you can answer questions and assist/encourage visitors to make the best of their day
- Moving around the garden, talking to visitors about the property theme and related stories; asking and answering questions
- Giving introductory talks/guided tours of the garden for groups
- Keeping in touch with the garden team so you're aware of what they are doing on a weekly basis and what projects are happening
- Knowing the visitor route and being aware of any potential risks; for children and people with disabilities in particular
- Keeping an eye on any areas of the garden that might be suffering wear and tear and reporting to the garden team
- Understanding the need for a balance between conservation and access, so that you can pass this message on to visitors when needed
- Under the direction of the garden team undertaking light gardening when there are no visitors in the gardens

This is a voluntary role. This role summary isn't legally binding or a contract.

- 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
- Enjoy meeting people and like working as part of a team
- Some knowledge of gardens/gardening is required
- Friendly and ready to answer questions - you never know what you'll be asked!
- Keen to discover more about Stoneywell and its natural history

Extra information

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.

Volunteer Manager Jennie Lloyd

Training/Resources Volunteers will be given an induction and any necessary training.

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.

This is a voluntary role. This role summary isn't legally binding or a contract.

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 the majority of its contents through three generations. It became a full-time residence from the middle of the last century – most recently being the home of Donald and Anne Gimson, who brought 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 opened to the public in early 2014.

Find out more

Contact Abi Whitlock on 01530 248047 or abigail.whitlock@nationaltrust.org.uk or visit nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneywell