

Planning & Place Directorate

Countryside Ranger

(Band C1, Full-time (37.5 hours/week, working 5 days out of 7, including weekends and evenings)

Purpose

The job holder will be part of a team of CNPA rangers, Seasonal rangers, Volunteer rangers and partner rangers working with residents and visitors encouraging people to; safely and responsibly enjoy the National Park, learn about what is special, and positively contribute to this exceptional place.

Work supporting and delivering strategies for the ranger services under the lead of the Ranger Manager and the Ranger, Volunteer and Outdoor Learning Manager. They will provide supervision support to the Ranger Manager in the day to day running of an efficient and effective team of ranger services and partners to deliver the National Park Partnership Plan and Corporate Plan. Rangers will also be expected to support a number of service wide issues such as seasonal recruitment, countryside maintenance etc. as required.

Responsibilities

- Key role is working with communities, land managers and businesses to welcome people safely to Cairngorms countryside and encouraging them to enjoy a safe and responsible visit. This will involve potentially challenging communications with visitors and partners.
- Working with the Ranger Manager and the team help manage and support the safe and effective working of seasonal and volunteer rangers and young rangers including being 'on call' to provide advice on safe working and act as first point of contact in the ranger service safety management system.
- Support the team's contribution, in partnership with the wider family of partner ranger services, to coordinate service delivery focussing on visitor management and supporting; events, community visitor & countryside work, site maintenance, outdoor learning & inclusion, countryside volunteering, statutory access & biodiversity functions etc.
- Work with the Ranger Manager to ensure that suitable systems are in place and implemented to ensure that the National Park Ranger Service is accountable for its time and is recording outputs and outcomes effectively including the production of annual plans and annual reporting for the ranger service as a whole.
- Support communications & initiatives which promote an understanding of the National Park and the role of the ranger service.
- Put forward considered ideas and suggestions on how to increase efficiency and improve ranger service delivery.

- Ensure adherence with procedures for use of resources. Scheduling of tools, and sites maintenance with the support of the Ranger Manager. Maintenance of resource inventories. Ensure adequate resources and kit (including PPE) for the team
- Support the process of partners, particularly schools, delivering outdoor learning and John Muir Award
- Ensure compliance with NPA Health and Safety Policy, in particular Risk Assessment (including approval) and Lone Working procedures
- Ensure adherence with agreed procedures help to develop the necessary partnerships and engagement with other organisations, land managers and the wider community to ensure the ongoing efficient and effective delivery of ranger priorities.

General

- Contribute to the work of the Conservation & Visitor Experience Directorate and CNPA as a whole and ensuring compliance with financial procedures;
- Contribute to the delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan;
- To conduct other work, as necessary; and
- All post holders are required to be flexible with regards their job description so that the organisation can adapt to new opportunities and priorities over time.

Person Specification - Knowledge, experience and training

ESSENTIAL

- Experience of supervising staff particularly in countryside activities;
- Good understanding of outdoor access rights and responsibilities, natural & cultural heritage, and managing for visitors
- Articulate with excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills
- HND or equivalent qualification in a related discipline; or equivalent level experience within a similar role
- Experience of safety management;
- Experience in partnership working;
- Willingness and ability to work flexibly, over weekends and in evenings;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills – verbal, written and presentational;
- IT skills – word processing, spread sheets, data bases;
- Full UK driving licence or access to driver if disability prevents driving.

DESIRABLE

- Experience of working in a countryside service or similar environment with a strong customer focus.