

Rutland Osprey Project – Reserve Experts Summer School

‘Reserve Experts’ is a one day experience for young people, held on the Lyndon Nature Reserve, on the south shore of Rutland Water. It is intended for those who are already interested in, or involved with, some aspect of natural history study, birdwatching, or similar.

During the one day programme (which is flexible to account for weather conditions), everyone will be involved in several practical activities including bird ringing, an osprey study, bird identification using visual and sound characteristics, and a feather and owl pellet study. Other activities will be based on our ‘Be an Osprey Expert’ book which all participants will be given.

Most of the activities will involve a lot of physical activity, standing, walking long distances over rough ground and sitting (listening and watching) on rough ground. Participants will need to be physically fit and prepared to get grubby!

There will be a choice of two days aimed at 8 -12 year olds and 12 –16 year olds. Parents can choose the most appropriate group for their 12 year olds, depending on their maturity and self-confidence.

The dates are;

Tuesday 30th July for 8-12 years

Wednesday 31st July for 12-16 years

Each of the days will be run by the Osprey Project Education Team, all of whom are qualified and experienced secondary teachers. All are fully police checked and hold first aid certificates. It is hoped that assistance will be also be provided by some of the Project’s Osprey Ambassador Team, who are young people who have worked with the Project for some time.

Cost

The Summer School is being supported by the Cameron Bespolka Trust, (please look at their inspirational website). Therefore each child will be asked to contribute just £10 towards the cost for the day.

Application

All young people who wish to take part in one of the ‘Reserve Expert’ days will be required to fill out (by hand) an application form. Limited spaces are available.

Please send in your application as soon as possible.

Address to which applications should be sent;

**Ken Davies, Education Officer,
Volunteer Training Centre,
Leics. & Rutland Wildlife Trust,
Oakham Rd.,
Hambleton,
Oakham
LE15 8AD**

Important Information for Parents

Location of Lyndon Nature Reserve

On the south shore of Rutland Water, between the villages of Manton and Edith Weston. Grid ref; 5K 895 056

**Lyndon Visitor Centre
Lyndon Road
Manton
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 8RN**

The reserve is accessed by a lane, with a long steep hill, but there is plenty of parking at the bottom adjacent to the Lyndon Visitors Centre.

Arrival & Collection

Children must arrive by **9.15 for a 9.30am start.**

Collection must be between **4.30 and 4.45pm.**

Accompanying adults will be required to sign their children in, to confirm who will be collecting them (and signing them out) and to provide an emergency contact number which will be active all day.

Arrangements on the Day

For introductory activities everyone will work together, but we will divide the young people into smaller groups of approximately 5, working with just one or two staff. Groups will then swap around so all participants cover all activities.

By the end of the day, subject to weather, each person will have learnt about;

1. Bird ringing, and seen/taken part in it.
2. How to identify birds by their visual features, and done some bird watching and identification.
3. The sound birds make and what these mean and how they can be recorded.
4. The Rutland Ospreys, and watched them, carrying out a simple behavioural study.
5. Bird feathers and their identification.
6. Owl pellets and started on a simple dissection of a pellet.

We shall arrange toilet and snack breaks between each activity change, and a 30 minute break for lunch will be taken at around 12.30.

Several activities will involve writing things down. We will supply participants with a printed activity book which will include tables, charts and maps ready for participants to complete. They will also be given a copy of the activity book "Be an Osprey Expert", which they will be at liberty to complete as and when it is appropriate. Both books will be theirs to take home. Children will also be supplied with a certificate of attendance at the end of the day which they can use in their or CV, or personal development record.

What to Bring/Wear

1. Participants must be dressed for an active day outside, including walking for a mile along an often muddy rough track. To minimise possible stings and sunburn, arms and legs should be covered. Weather does change, so all should have a warm top and waterproof jacket or cagoule. Strong footwear, not sandals. Sunhat.

Ideal dress would be jeans, tee shirt, hoody, trainers, cagoule and hat.

2. Lunch, drinks and snacks.
We will have some top up orange squash and wrapped biscuits.
3. Small rucksack style bag to carry things and leave hands free.
4. Pens & pencils.
5. Sunscreen and hat.
6. Medication if required (please notify us of this).

7. Participants may already have their own binoculars and they are welcome to bring them. However we do have plenty of child friendly binoculars to lend.
8. Cameras if they wish. They are entirely responsible for their care.
9. Mobile phones may be brought. Owners are totally responsible for their care. Much of the time we will be in a 'poor signal area' and many of our activities will require them to be switched off. Participants would be able to text home during their lunch break if this is important to you.
10. Money is not necessary. There is a small shop in the Lyndon Centre which sells gifts, sweets and ice creams. We shall not be visiting it as such but it is located next to the entrance and toilet, so they will see it.

Photos

During the activities we shall take photos of staff and young people involved in the activities. These may be used on our website or press publicity. It will be assumed that you have consented to this unless you specify otherwise when signing your child in on the morning of the activity.

First Aid

We will of course do everything we can to ensure your child has a safe and happy day, but accidents do happen.

All members of the education team have done a certified first aid course. The person who signs the young person in on the morning of the activity will be shown the contents of the first aid kit and asked to confirm its use. This will cover minor cuts, grazes, stings and twists. Anything more than this and we shall contact you and/or the emergency service.

Booking Conditions

Confirmation of your child's booking will follow receipt of the application form.

Successful applicants must forward payment of £10 for each child's place. This will be non-refundable unless we cancel the child's place. Forwarding of the £10 will confirm that you accept our booking conditions.

We anticipate that applications will exceed places available so please do not assume your child has been accepted until you hear from us.

We reserve the right to refuse any child a place up to and including the day of the activity if we deem them unsuitable or unfit to take part on the day.

We will not assume liability for any child's personal property.

We will do our best to deliver the activities mentioned in the introduction. We cannot control the weather and reserve the right to change the programme as appropriate.