# **Volunteer Greenkeeper – Green Skills Centre**

**Location**: Cyrenians Green Skills Centre, 12 Humbie Holdings, Kirknewton, EH27 8DS. [**See map here**](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Cyrenians+Farm+-+Community+%26+Green+Skills+Centre/@55.897037,-3.4097149,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x4887db513f442965:0xb4e68f0b6c0ecd0f!8m2!3d55.897037!4d-3.40714!16s%2Fg%2F1tf7m40j?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDIwOS4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D).

**Time:** You can join us on Tuesday, Wednesday and / or Thursday from 10am – 4pm. You can join for a whole day or part of the day.

We are flexible on which day(s) you join and how often every month. Just let us know your availability and preferences. We welcome taster sessions, if you would like to see and get a feel for the place and people first. Just get in touch with us first to arrange this.

## **What is our Green Skills Centre?**

Our [**Green Skills Centre**](https://cyrenians.scot/how-we-help/945-cyrenians-green-skills-centre) is part of our community farm, where we grow food, skills and community. We want to address the challenges relating to sustainability, inclusion, learning and wellbeing in our community.

We do this in our organic market garden, where we grow food using regenerative principals. This includes our local organic vegetable-bag enterprise. Providing a hot meal for everyone, using the produce we grow, is also an important part of our community work.

We also deliver outdoor learning programmes for young people under 18 years old. These are designed to develop confidence and skills for those at risk of experiencing unemployment and homelessness. We want to provide a space for cultivating relationships – with the land, ourselves and each other. We empower young people by equipping them with new skills that can be used in every part of their lives.

## **What will you do as a volunteer?**

Our 8-acre farm has a lot of green space, surrounding our buildings, paths and growing areas as well as in our organic orchard and field areas. As a volunteer, you will do greenkeeping activities and tasks with fellow colleagues, volunteers and young people visiting our farm.

You will also take part in supporting the skills development of young people, by teaching them new skills in greenery, practical tasks at the farm and alike, when possible.

You will therefore be involved in different tasks, which can include:

* maintaining the green areas around our centre
* cutting grass using different tools
* help us organise how we look after our green areas using maps
* help with maintenance of equipment (identify and report servicing needs of tools)
* teaching young people (under 18) new skills in greenkeeping
* instructing or supervising 1-2 young people attending a project, who might help you with your tasks.

We will provide support and training needed for you to engage with the tasks and young people in a safe manner.

Appropriate outdoor clothing and safety gear is required. We can provide steel toe cap footwear and other personal protective equipment, if you don’t have them. We have the needed tools available at the centre.

## **What can you gain from this volunteering opportunity?**

* Meet new people and be part of a supportive team
* Develop your maintenance skills in an outdoor and farm setting
* A chance to spend time in a rural idyllic setting surrounded by native flora and fauna in all seasons
* Grow your green space and land management skills
* Learn how a local Scottish charity engages with different community work
* Develop your interpersonal skills in how to support young people
* Take home some fresh produce and preserves
* Grow your skills in working together with people of all backgrounds and with different support needs
* Learn about bees and honey production, when possible.

## **Does this sound like you?**

Everyone is welcome to join and get actively involved with looking after our green areas, while supporting the skills development of young people at our Green Skills Centre, as a volunteer.

If you…

* are over 18 years old
* are familiar with greenkeeping tools
* have a can-do problem-solving attitude
* enjoy doing practical tasks and feel confident working with tools
* work well as part of a team and on your own
* have some experience or feel confident in assessing risk and know how to do tasks safely in an outdoor or farm setting
* enjoy paying attention to the details and organising tasks
* have basic knowledge on how to repair and maintain greenkeeping equipment
* are friendly, easy to approach and reliable
* would enjoy sharing your knowledge and teach young people about looking after green areas, plants and alike
* are happy to engage with individuals who may have different support needs
* do not judge and respect confidentiality
* are patient and respectful of everyone using our site(s).

Then let us know your interest and get in touch by filling in the online form. We can then arrange a chat to get to know each other better, and we can offer more information about the place and volunteering opportunity.

## **Your accessibility**

Please let us know in the online form, if you need any support or adjustments to make our first chat together and volunteering a positive experience for you.

If you for any reason cannot fill in our online form, not to worry. Please reach out to us on 0131 333 5202. Ask for Andie.

You are also welcome to submit a short video (MP4 format) via our online submission tool instead. Please include the information that we ask for in our ‘interest form’.

Any expenses for helping with these activities, which have been agreed, will be paid back to you. We cover local travel costs at public transport rate, or mileage if you drive here. We provide a meal for all volunteers joining for over 4 hours at one time.

We have free parking on the farm, and busses stop nearby. Unfortunately, our site is currently not wheelchair accessible.

We will ask you for the contact details of a person, who you have known for more than 6 months (1 reference). If you need support identifying a reference, please let us know.

## **Keeping everyone safe**

You will engage with people, who are either young people under 18 years old and / or considered particularly vulnerable in our society. It is therefore required that you are a member of the [**PVG scheme in Scotland**](https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme).

If you are not already a member, then we will process your application with you. There are no costs to you in becoming a PVG scheme member for volunteering.

You can read [**our safeguarding policy here**](https://cyrenians.scot/assets/000/001/672/Safeguarding_Policy_original.pdf?1729240047) that details our commitment to keeping everyone safe. It is expected of everyone to adhere to these commitments. We expect all volunteers to do relevant training, so you can help keep yourself and others safe from harm.