



# Outdoor Learning Officer

Riversmeet Community Coop

**Hours:** 18.75 hours/week.

**Duration:** Fixed term contract for 12 months from start date, with possibility of extension up to 3 years dependent on funding.

**Work location:** Danaway Homestead, Eaglesfield Village.

**Operational area:** Primary focus within the Cockermouth catchment area with travel to local farms, growers and nature sites.

**Working days:** Flexible hours and days to respond to local and personal needs, balancing weekdays and weekends, with a half day of homeworking.

**Pay:** £13,688 pro rata salary (£27,375 full time equivalent), including 3% employer pension contributions and 14 days pro rata holiday allowance (28 days full time).

**Reporting to:** A sub group with occasional attendance at Coop Directors Core Team meetings (Monday evenings)

**Line management:** by a nominated Coop Director.

**Closing date for applications:** 12pm (noon) on Friday, 18th July.

**Interview date:** Week commencing 28th July.

**Start date:** As soon as possible after recruitment.





## About Riversmeet Community Coop

Riversmeet is a cooperative enterprise supported by a local learning community of Smallholders, Gardeners, Therapists, Facilitators, Teachers and Land Workers.

Our values of caring for the earth and its community of life is central to our work. By supporting individual personal development and nurturing a deep connection with Nature we aim to foster collective wellbeing and resilience.

Our approach is founded on permaculture, agroecological growing and nature connection practice.

## Role overview

This post will support our aims to increase local horticultural and agroecological knowledge and skills while strengthening community wellbeing through supporting deeper connection with and care for Nature.

You will work with our Core Team to build collaborative networks, and you will deliver programmes to develop the resilience of local people of all ages, supporting them in learning to grow food and develop their land based skills, while expanding their appreciation of the natural world and its power to heal.

As well as developing your own programmes you will work in collaboration with our network of self-employed facilitators to offer a diverse programme of year-round nature connection and practical land-based skills and rural crafts.

These may include:

- After School Projects and Growing Clubs
- Family and Home Education Groups
- Permaculture and Agroecological Training
- Forest Schools and Nature Discovery Groups
- Practical Skills including Fibre and Wood Crafts





This will require a planned seasonal approach to optimise community engagement throughout the year, with some indoor winter activities based in the Yurt or Polytunnel at Danaway Homestead during inclement weather.

This post is funded by the Ernest Cook Trust.

## **Specific role responsibilities**

### Programme development and delivery

- Develop and deliver a programme of outdoor learning activities with local children, young people, families, teachers and outdoor facilitators.
- Collaborate with and support the Coop's existing facilitator network to develop and deliver year-round outdoor learning and nature connection activities.
- Cultivate and sustain relationships with people, organisations and projects, including local farms, ecological initiatives and market gardens that can host practical activities, experiential learning and nature connection.

### Supporting organisational development

- Using photos and video, document and share engaging stories of people and nature associated with our programmes through social media, on Riversmeet's website (currently being updated) and in person.
- Act as an ambassador for Riversmeet, increasing our profile and upholding our reputation for high levels of service to members and the public.

### Project management, monitoring and reporting

- Manage budgets for programmes and activities
- Maintain records of and report on programme development and delivery as required by the Coop and our funders.

Any other relevant duties that may arise from time to time which are appropriate to this role, as reasonably requested by the Core Team.





## Person specification

This role requires skills, experiences and qualities in the following areas:

- Relevant qualifications or experience in horticulture, or a demonstrable enthusiasm for and commitment to fruit and vegetable growing.
- Qualifications or experience in relevant related areas such as outdoor education, youth work, teaching, geography, ecology, permaculture, forest schools, land management, animal husbandry, dietary health, food preparation and processing.
- A demonstrated passion for nature and understanding of the issues around environment, food, climate and education.
- Experience in recording, evaluating and reporting on activities and their outcomes.
- The ability to develop work plans, monitor progress, self-manage and work independently, seeking help as needed.
- A strong capacity to coordinate programmes with multiple activities and collaborators.
- Excellent communication skills, interpersonal skills and experience and confidence in facilitation
- Understanding of inclusive practice and the barriers to engagement.
- Good understanding of health and safety practices in an outdoor setting.
- Understanding of the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults (the role holder will require an enhanced DBS check)
- Good IT skills including Microsoft office programmes or their equivalent and use of social media.
- Willingness to travel around the local community, and a current driving licence.
- An interest in working with young people and families
- A clear commitment to the cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.





We want to make sure we find the right person for this role, so if you're interested but aren't sure that you have all the skills, experience and qualities listed above, please reach out to Rick Cross at [richardfcross@gmail.com](mailto:richardfcross@gmail.com) to schedule a phone call.

## How to apply

Please send a CV and cover letter outlining how you meet or would be able to meet the person specification to [riversmeet1@gmail.com](mailto:riversmeet1@gmail.com). This can be in written format (max 2 pages each for CV and cover letter) or audio/video (max 5 minutes).

If you require any other reasonable adjustments to the application process to ensure you can participate fully and are assessed fairly, please let us know in your application email.

