

Brief description of service and volunteer role:

Autism Sussex is an independent, not for profit organisation and registered charity, whose aim is to provide a range of opportunities for children, young people and adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and/or Asperger Syndrome.

The Roebuck Centre is our resource and advice centre for people with high-functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome. The centre is located in Hastings Old Town and runs a variety of groups, events and recreational activities daily.

We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic volunteers to support Trainees with Autism Spectrum Conditions to participate in our beekeeping project. We have a number of apiaries and hives in the local area and plan to develop our own bee colonies and sell our honey! Experience and skills in beekeeping would be really useful, but not essential. If you are interested in enabling other people to learn new skills, reach their full potential and have fun, then we'd love to hear from you.

Where:

Based at The Roebuck Centre, Unit 3, Roebuck Street, Hastings, TN34 3BB and at The Sanctuary Retreat, Leather Waggon, Pett Level Road, Fairlight, Hastings, TN35 4ED. Also at various other local sites.

Main activities and tasks:

- Assisting staff to run practical, hands-on beekeeping activities at various sites
- Helping to develop and expand the new beekeeping project
- Supporting our Trainees to take part in the project
- Inspecting and maintaining apiaries/hives to ensure bees are clean, healthy and disease-free
- Ensuring all risk assessments and health and safety procedures are followed at all times
- Supporting Trainees to attend local beekeeping Society meetings

What we're looking for:

- Experience of bees and beekeeping or a willingness to learn
- Awareness and understanding of ASC and Asperger Syndrome.
- Good communication skills, patience and flexibility
- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Able to work unsupervised out in the community and to support some Trainees 1:1
- Your own car with a clean driving licence (you will need to add Business Insurance)

What you'll get out of it:

- Autism Awareness training
- Ongoing support and supervision
- References and support with your CV
- Reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses
- Lots of fun!

Time commitment:

Weekly on Tuesday and Friday mornings for 3-4 hours, and occasional other times.

How to apply for this role:

For an informal chat please contact Cecile Roberts on 01424 722516 or email volunteering@autismsussex.org.uk for an application pack.

This role requires an Enhanced DBS check, which can take approximately six weeks to process