



Almond Valley Heritage Trust

Application to Join the Young Volunteer's Club

This Young Volunteers's Club run activity sessions at weekends in which children and families can lend a hand caring for animals and helping with maintenance around the farm. You have to be a member of the Friends to join the Young Volunteers (ie children have to be named on a family Friends membership card). Any children less than 12 need to be accompanied by an adult (18+) who is also a Friends member. Children must be aged at least five years old.

The project is intended not just a kid's club but a way of involving families in the work of the Friends. Mums, dads and other adults are encouraged to have fun working alongside your kids on the farm. Because capacity is limited and we want to spread the benefits of this project as widely as possible, a booking system will be operated. There will be morning (9.30-12.00) and afternoon (1.30 -4.00) sessions most Saturdays and Sundays, and during some school holiday periods. You can book in person or by phone, no more than a fortnight in advance. You can normally book only one session each weekend. If you arrive without having booked, you run the risk of being turned away.

How To Join

First fill out this form, send it back to us, and we'll be in touch to arrange an induction meeting lasting about an hour. This might be held on a Friday afternoon. At this meeting we'll show you around and explain the essential safety rules. Once you've been through this introduction, you can book into a volunteer session.

What happens then?

Arrive promptly at 9.30am or 1.30 pm and you'll be met a reception by the Young Volunteers Officer who'll get you to sign in. Wear sensible (ideally safety) footwear and clothes : we strongly recommend the special club shirt and top available at a subsidised price. Out on the farm you'll be given jobs to do and provided with tools, materials and whatever other help is needed. There's a mid morning or mid afternoon break in the club bothy (equipped with lockers). Bring a snack with you if you want, as we don't encourage working clothes in the tearoom. After your three hours it's time to crawl off home, happy but exhausted. Remember unaccompanied children are not allowed on site except during pre-booked sessions

Safety

Farms can be very dangerous places and not sticking to the rules can have terrible consequences. It is important that young volunteers follow instructions and don't do things that are silly, hazardous, or inconsiderate to others. If they do, we might not accept bookings for further sessions.

It is also important to understand why animals are kept at Mill Farm. We are not a zoo or an animal sanctuary, but a place where people can learn about farming, and how it has changed through time. Very often farm animals do not stay with us for long and once grown they may be sent to other farms or taken to market. It's very important that children understand and accept this before getting too emotionally attached to individual animals.



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please fill out a separate application form for each child

surname

Friends membership number

first name(s)

date of birth

address

postcode

contact telephone number(s)

e-mail

Name of parent or guardian

Any other contact details (eg mobile phone, works phone) that might be useful should we need to contact parent or guardian at weekends.

relationship to child

Address (if different from above)

Has the child any medical conditions that we should know about eg. allergies, asthma, requirement for medication etc.

I agree to my child taking part as a Young Volunteer

Signed (parent or guardian)

Date