



La Team – UK

The 'La Team' project focuses on the themes of the Environment, Volunteering and the development of European Awareness, both in terms of increased intercultural understanding and participation, and a better awareness of the European environment.

The 'La Team' overall programme covers a six month period, with partner organisations collaborating to offer participating volunteers a common structured programme comprising: a focused preparatory month, a four month EVS placement during which volunteers work as part of a European team carrying out environmental projects in the local community and a concluding month, during which volunteers put into practice the skills and experiences they have gained during their EVS placement, for the benefit of their own communities and organisations.

During the EVS placement, four volunteers from partner organisations in Estonia, France, Greece and Italy will work together to carry out practical environmental tasks in Scotland. The project is co-ordinated by BTCV International, hosted by BTCV Scotland and supported by experienced, trained leaders.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to carry out a variety of conservation and community focused activities, including: native tree planting and habitat development; events planning and delivery; community path work; and invasive species removal. In addition to this, volunteers will have the opportunity to attend training courses including: Environmental Education; Mental Health – Understanding the effects of depression, anxiety and stress; bespoke experiential Diversity training; CV workshop. Throughout the placement there is opportunity for volunteers to become involved in our extensive biological recording projects across Scotland.

The Hosting Organisation

[BTCV](#) is the UK's leading Social Enterprise Group that enables people to make a difference to their lives and improve the places around them. We are committed to providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer in improving their environment. As an organisation, BTCV has had experience of EVS programmes through hosting (regularly, annually, since 1996) and sending (regularly, annually, since 2005), variously as partner and coordinator. We have promoted further development of the EVS programme, recruiting new organisations through a project funded through YiA Action 4.3. For this project [BTCV International](#) will act as coordinating organisation with [BTCV Scotland](#) hosting under its won accreditation.



The role and tasks of the volunteer

The tasks of the volunteer include most aspects of nature conservation management.

The work will take place in a variety of rural and urban areas in Central Scotland. The work includes preparing for projects, building teamwork as well as physical work at the worksite and working closely with local communities.

Volunteers will work as part of the [Stirling Midweek group](#) to carry out conservation tasks including community path work, tree-thinning and habitat management, school wildlife garden development and watercourse management, amongst others. In addition to this, BTCV Scotland takes part in an extensive community outreach events schedule for which the volunteers are a key component of successful delivery. Event work for the volunteers includes both planning and delivery which comprises: sweep-netting, potting and identification of samples for use at event days; day set-ups on site as part of our events team; gathering of equipment required for each specific event e.g. hand lenses, identification keys, microscopes, recording equipment etc.

As part of their role, volunteers will undertake a 2-4 week placement working alongside existing BTCV Scotland Natural Communities trainees on existing community projects.

Working hours, days off per week, holidays

The working day on the volunteer programme is usually 09:00 – 17:00. However, because of unpredictable weather conditions and remote locations, participants are asked to be flexible. Volunteers usually have weekends off but in some cases the programme structure means that teams work on weekends but then have additional days off instead where appropriate.

A typical timetabled week with BTCV Scotland works around arriving at the Stirling office at 9am to go out to work with the Midweek group until 5pm, Monday to Friday. One day will include undertaking a bio-recording task as part of the work, this is nominally a Wednesday. There will be sessions available each week for the volunteer to work on their own personal project, which includes time set aside for meeting with the co-ordinator or mentor to go over work plans and schedules to ensure that the placement is meeting the demands and expectations of each volunteer.

Food, accommodation

Food and accommodation provision will be based on the principle of sustainability. Consumption of local products and recycling will be promoted.

Accommodation is provided on campus at Stirling University. The volunteers will be placed in a self-contained 4 bedroom flat with self-catering facilities and food budget will be covered throughout their stay.



Travel

All agreed work-related transport costs during the programme are covered.

Regular local bus services from volunteer accommodation will form the bulk of transport for the volunteers to attend their placement. In some cases, such as events in other locations across

Scotland, volunteers will share transport with BTCV Scotland's events team which comprises minibus and/or pooled cars.