

## Welcome



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Scottish Seabird Centre! As part of our team, you will be contributing to the essential marine conservation and education work that the charity undertakes every day.

This handbook is designed to provide some of the information you may need if considering a voluntary role with us. In addition, our staff will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the charity and how our volunteering opportunities work.

# Volunteer Handbook

Information for prospective volunteers



## What is the Scottish Seabird Centre?

The Scottish Seabird Centre is a conservation and education charity which aims to inspire and engage people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to connect with the marine environment and take action to protect it.

The Centre provides a unique opportunity to view wildlife from its stunning location overlooking the Firth of Forth, using interactive cameras which allow visitors to closely observe seabirds, marine mammals and other wildlife without disturbance. Boat trips out into the Forth, which run throughout the summer season, also grant visitors an exciting and memorable experience to engage with Scotland's natural heritage.

Opened in 2000, the Scottish Seabird Centre is now the recipient of multiple national awards and is famous for providing an excellent experience to visitors. A leader in scientific communication and education, the Centre is an important voice for nature.

You can find out more about our education and conservation work by exploring our website: [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org).

## Where will I be working?

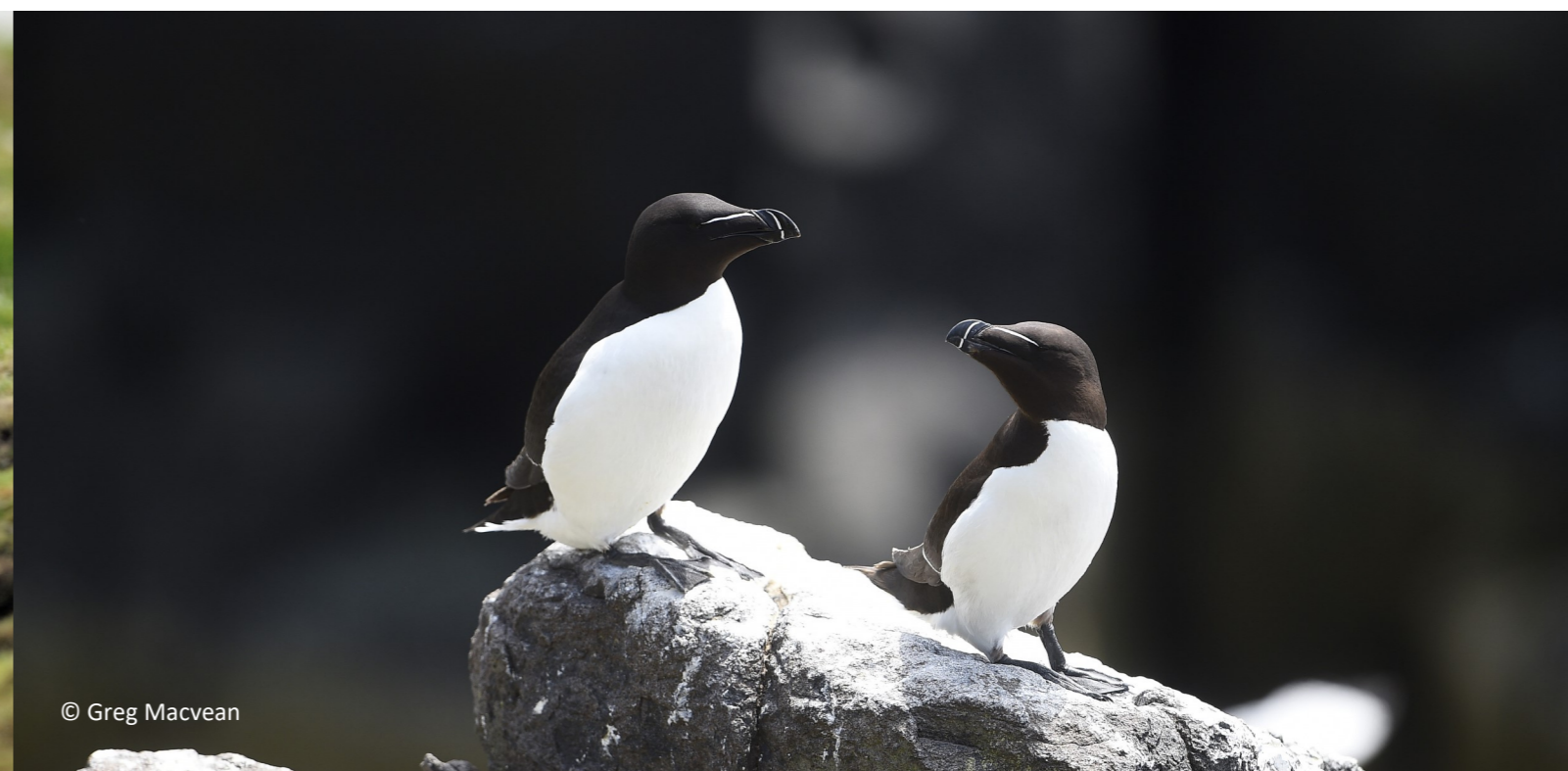
At the Scottish Seabird Centre, volunteers contribute to the charity in a variety of ways. Volunteers are free to choose the activities or departments which they would like to contribute their time to.

## Fundraising

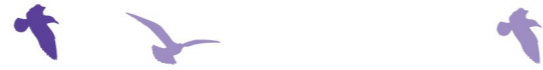
The Scottish Seabird Centre is a charity and relies on the generosity of its supporters to operate. The Scottish Seabird Centre Volunteer Group does an invaluable job raising essential funds to support the education and conservation work carried out by the Centre. You can contribute to this by fundraising as an individual or joining the team at events and functions.

## Education

The education team are always on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to help with the delivery of our school visits, wildlife club and holiday club. If you'd prefer not to support delivery, creating lesson plans and educational resources is also a great way to contribute to the team.



## The Discovery Experience



Our recently transformed Discovery Experience is packed with new exhibits, games and upgraded interactive cameras. Staff and volunteers work together to inspire visitors and bring the wonders of Scotland's marine habitats and wildlife to life. If you choose to volunteer in the Discovery Experience you will receive training and support to operate the games and exhibits. A few of the main features of the experience are:

- Virtual Reality —walk among the gannets on the Bass Rock or dive into the underwater world.
- Interactive live cameras—visitors operate live cameras bringing them closer to the wildlife out on the amazing Firth of Forth islands.
- Interactive games and challenges—visitors have the opportunity to explore species, habitats and threats by taking part in a range of fun activities.
- Educational displays—displays containing lots of information, images, video footage and objects allow visitors to learn more about local wildlife and how we study and protect it.

## What will we provide?



- ♦ A friendly welcome to the team.
- ♦ A secure place to store your belongings.
- ♦ A branded purple t-shirt and name badge.
- ♦ A discount card.
- ♦ The appropriate safety information and insurance cover.
- ♦ The opportunity to enhance your knowledge, skills and experience.
- ♦ Inclusion in social events and access to regular volunteer meetings.
- ♦ Ongoing support from Scottish Seabird Centre Staff and the volunteer group.



## What do we expect from you?



- ◆ Commitment and reliability. If you are going to be late or can no longer attend an agreed shift, please call the Centre (01620 890202, option 4) and inform the appropriate department.
- ◆ A clean, neat appearance. The uniform consists of black shoes, black trousers or skirt and a Scottish Seabird Centre polo shirt or sweatshirt. Your name badge should be clearly displayed at all times.
- ◆ A helpful, friendly and polite attitude when communicating with members of the public and the Scottish Seabird Centre team.
- ◆ To seek guidance from Scottish Seabird Centre Staff if you need support.
- ◆ To be an ambassador for the charity and support the Scottish Seabird Centre's vision and values.

## Thank you



The work undertaken by the Scottish Seabird Centre would not be possible without the dedication, hard work and commitment of volunteers.

We are living through a time of climate and biodiversity emergency. The latest [State of Nature Report](#) revealed that 41% of UK species studied have declined since 1970.

By volunteering your time and energy with us, you are part of a movement acting to protect Scottish wildlife, connect people with nature and safeguard habitats for future generations.

