Volunteer Role Description
Conservation Assistant

What is a Conservation Assistant?
Conservation Assistants help to care for our collections and keep up presentation standards in our houses as set out in the National Trust Manual of Housekeeping. Working with conservation staff, you will learn how to protect historic items so that our visitors can enjoy them for as long as possible. This role is a brilliant opportunity to help engage the public in the vital conservation work we do, so they better understand the importance of our role as a heritage charity.

What’s in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Enjoying new experiences and learning something new every day
- Going behind the scenes and handling interesting objects

What’s involved?

- Assisting with the daily conservation clean:
  1. Helping to clean all floors and dust flat surfaces in the showrooms
  2. Helping to clean each room from top to bottom, treating each object individually; dusting, cleaning, washing or polishing
  3. Helping to clean and record any items in storage
- Alerting the house team to any items that are missing, damaged, deteriorating or in need of specialist attention: updating condition and inventory records
- Learning about Knightshayes as a whole and understanding what each department does so you can offer support as needed
- Keeping an eye on light levels, pest activity and evidence of mould or mildew
- Join in with Conservation in Action activities; interacting with visitors to help them learn about conservation and better understand the work we do
- Becoming familiar with and then following the National Trust’s Health and Safety Policy at all times
- There may be other activities where we could use your help

This role will suit people who... enjoy working as part of a team, have a good eye

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for detail and an interest in historic collections. Enthusiasm for learning conservation techniques will be encouraged. Ideally, conservation assistants will also have good hand-eye coordination, be able to work from a ladder or tower scaffold and lift objects.

**Extra information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your place</th>
<th>Knightshayes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time commitment</td>
<td>One day a week if you can. Alternatively, we are always looking for support in helping us complete our daily clean, between 8am and 10am, particularly at the weekends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Manager</td>
<td>Alice Morgan-Brown, Visitor Services Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Contact (if different)</td>
<td>Sara Currant, House Manager Kate Churchill, House Steward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training/Resources</td>
<td>As part of your induction you given a one-to-one session to ensure you are aware of Heath and Safety regulations and that you have all the information you need to start your role. Also, full conservation training will need to be given before we let you loose on the collection.</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
<td>Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid, and other reasonable expenses agreed in advance</td>
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**About the National Trust**

The National Trust is a registered charity and is completely independent of Government. We rely for income on membership fees, donations and legacies, and money raised from our commercial operations. We are supported by over 4 million members and 61,000 volunteers without whom we simply could not manage.

**About Knightshayes**

Taken on by the Trust in 1972, Knightshayes is one of the finest surviving Gothic Revival houses, built in the lush landscape of mid-Devon, Knightshayes Court, and is a rare example of the work of the eccentric architect William Burges. The restored and fully productive organic kitchen garden is a treat for everyone who enjoys local produce and the vast formal garden, which was the Heathcoat Amory family's great passion, is renowned for its rare trees, shrubs and seasonal colours. The National Trust took on Knightshayes in 1972, and began an extensive and ongoing restoration project to show the house as it is today.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the Property office on 01884 254665, or email Knightshayes@nationaltrust.org.uk.

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