



## Volunteer Driver role description

SisterWood is a local Devon charity responding to the need for supporting young women's mental wellbeing. SisterWood operates in the Teign Valley with a catchment of Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge, within a 30-minute commute of our site at Deer Leap Farm, EX6 7QR.

**Volunteer role:** SisterWood driver

**Service:** Transporting young people to sessions

Our programme supports girls and those identifying as female aged 12-16, whose experiences with mental ill health impact their day to day lives. Our sessions will run one day a week from January during the academic term, blending forest school skills and mindfulness-based practices. Due to our location on the outskirts of Exeter, transport is a barrier for young people accessing our service, so we are creating a Community Volunteer Driver Scheme to mitigate this. Volunteer drivers will be needed to pick the young people up from their homes and bring them out to our site, and then return them home at the end of the day. Sessions begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm in the woods at Deer Leap Farm, Higher Ashton, EX6 7QR (the postcode for our field entrance). The young people will be living up to 30 minutes away in either Exeter, Teignbridge or East Devon. Ideally, we will buddy up volunteers with young people living relatively close to them, and all mileage and business insurance costs will be covered by SisterWood.

**Supported by:** Director/Lead facilitator: Alice Francesca Lloyd

**Commitment:** Exact dates TBC – each journey will be one morning and one afternoon route per week. Minimum commitment of one term (13 weeks) to support the sense of safety and reliability a young person feels in coming to SisterWood.

**Training:** Staff induction held prior to beginning transportation of young people.

**Requirements:** DBS check (undertaken by SisterWood).

Full clean driving license with over 3 years driving experience.

Must have own vehicle with business insurance – SisterWood to cover costs of insurance upgrade where needed.

**Role purpose:** Transport SisterWood participants to and from the field entrance for Deer Leap Farm, EX6 7QR. Up to one hour's travel each week, mileage reimbursed.

### Personal qualities and experience

SisterWood volunteers are friendly and kind. Volunteers must be over the age of 30, have a clean driver's license, with a minimum of 3 years driving experience, and be willing to undertake a DBS



(background) check. They demonstrate strong listening and empathic skills and take an important role in building a supportive community around the young people they transport. Some experience of mental health can be useful in communicating with young people, though not essential, and SisterWood volunteers understand that young people's behaviour is an expression of unmet need, not a reflection of the young person's innate qualities.

A willingness to be reliable is key, arriving on time to collect and transport young people to each session. Volunteers must be willing to work within guidelines and always follow confidentiality and safeguarding policies.

### **Tasks and activities**

- Take part in an induction prior to the beginning of the programme: December 2023 TBC.
- Arrive at each of the young people's houses in the morning at the specified time to transport them to the SisterWood sessions.
- Ensure young person is met by the SisterWood team at the Deer Leap Farm Field entrance.
- Return to the field entrance of Deer Leap Farm promptly at 3:30pm to collect and return young person to their home.
- Together we will come up with a route and schedule to pick up young people and bring them out to us.

### **In return, as a SisterWood Volunteer, you will have the opportunity to:**

- Take part in our SisterWood Community Days and monthly gatherings in the woods, developing positive connections within your community.
- Undertake training on mental wellbeing, safeguarding and working with young people.
- Support young people's healthy social development.
- Be part of a friendly team and a supportive community.

## **Volunteer Agreement**

### **We ask you to:**

- Work within the parameters of your volunteer role description.
- Maintain the commitment you choose to make.
- Undertake training and updates.
- Keep appointments and complete relevant paperwork.
- Keep us informed if your circumstances change.
- Inform us immediately of any new criminal convictions.
- Keep to the SisterWood policies regarding confidentiality; safeguarding and data protection (these will be included as part of the volunteer handbook and summarised in the induction prior to the start of the sessions)
- Follow all SisterWood risk assessments.



- Promote the work of SisterWood in your local community.
- Feel able to tell us if you are dissatisfied in any way, or if there are improvements we can make.
- Keep to all other SisterWood policies and procedures, summarised in the volunteer handbook and available in full on request or via the website.

**Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood the above and return to [fran@sisterwood.org](mailto:fran@sisterwood.org) with a brief message as your application for this post. You can expect a reply within 48 hours, and the next steps would be an invitation for a phone call or face to face meeting to discuss the role and your application.**

**Full Name:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

This agreement is binding in honour only, is not intended to be a legally binding contract between us and may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.