

# Bath City Farm Supported Volunteer Placement Scheme for 13-16s



## **Background to the Farm**

Bath City Farm is a 37 acre community managed green space that provides a community service to all residents of Bath and North East Somerset. Our mission is to build a caring, healthy and cohesive community through the involvement of local people - especially those who are disadvantaged - in the development and maintenance of a productive green space, where they are able to learn about sustainable farming and food growing, acquire new skills and develop new friendships.

At Bath City Farm we believe that high quality learning in an outdoor environment is a significant factor in raising standards and improving personal development for young people of all ages. It can:

- Lead to improved outcomes for students, including better achievement, standards, motivation and behavior.
- Have a positive effect on young people who are not stimulated or motivated by mainstream education.
- Make subjects more vivid and interesting for pupils and enhance their understanding.
- Impress upon students that care for their immediate surroundings is the first step in caring for their planet.

We offer outdoor work placements for students who, for whatever reason, are finding it difficult to engage with classroom activities or are at risk of exclusion. We provide a range of practical activities including:

- **Animal care**, handling and feeding farm animals, cleaning them out and helping care for their young.
- **Horticulture**, helping to grow a variety of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers and well as look after our award winning sensory garden.
- **Wildlife Conservation**, such as hedge laying, tree planting, coppicing and scrub clearance, wildlife identification.
- **Cooking and craft**, using produce and natural materials from the farm to create delicious healthy food and creative products including cosmetics, gifts and garden products.
- **Grounds Maintenance**, learning how to look after a large open space that is used by the public, training in use of lawn mowers, building fencing and pathways.
- **Basic Carpentry and Green Woodworking**, creating products for our farm shop such as bird boxes and feeders and constructing animal pens and fencing.



As well as gaining a wide range of practical skills that they could take further in either employment or further education, students gain a host of transferable skills such as problem solving, team building, communication skills, time keeping, a good work ethic and a sense of responsibility. They will also gain in self-confidence and have pride in the work they achieve. Numeracy and literacy is built into activities through tasks such as measuring, calculating prices of materials, reading instructions and writing up reports on the tasks they achieve (if requested).

- Our sessions run on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.00 - 3.15pm, with a maximum of only five in the group at any one time.
- Placements run for the length of each school term (Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012)
- There is no charge for the placement but contributions are very welcome.
- A taster session will be run on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (1.00 – 3.15pm).

**For more information speak to Claire Mills on 01225 481269 or [Claire@bathcityfarm.org.uk](mailto:Claire@bathcityfarm.org.uk).**

**We'd be happy to meet with you to discuss any specific requirements.**