

Positively

PENRITH



School and Community Group Bushcare Volunteering Program

Information package and expression of interest form

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUP BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

About the Program

Penrith City Council's School and Community Group Bushcare Volunteering Program contributes to fostering partnerships with the community to deliver environmental outcomes.

We match school and community group volunteers with conservation projects within the Penrith Local Government Area (LGA) to participate in an environmental project with a specified outcome.

Volunteers assist in planting thousands of native species, removing tonnes of weeds and cleaning up dozens of natural areas each year. Training and tools are provided at each session by an experienced staff member.

School and community group volunteers leave with a better understanding of biodiversity, the local area, and how their activities at home and work may be impacting our environment. Volunteering is a rewarding and educational experience, and a great opportunity for schools to educate people of all ages on the importance of bushland conservation.



About Bushcare

Council's Bushcare Program is responsible for conserving and looking after our bushland.

The program coordinates bush regeneration activities to achieve positive biodiversity outcomes which include the preservation of native flora and fauna, weed control, and guiding long-term management of bushland areas on Council land across the Penrith LGA.

There are 12 regular Bushcare Groups meeting each month at different bushland reserves, with all equipment, training, supervision and refreshments provided. These experienced members encourage anyone with an interest in conserving bushland to join them at one of their work sessions.

No previous Bushcare volunteering experience is required to participate in the School and Community Group Bushcare Volunteering Program or at a regular Bushcare Group work session.



HOW TO BECOME A SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY GROUP VOLUNTEER

This table outlines the provisions of Penrith City Council and the School/Community Group.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL PROVIDES
<p>LOCATION</p> <p>We organise the project site, site preparation, equipment and permissions to undertake site work.</p>
<p>AMENITIES</p> <p>As bushland areas can be off the beaten track, we cannot guarantee bathroom facilities or drinking water; however, we will provide closest facility information.</p>
<p>AVAILABILITY</p> <p>Typical events run anytime between 9am to 3pm on a weekday. Our team will be available during agreed hours to manage the event, allowing time to set up and pack up.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS</p> <p>We can organise a variety of activities with varying degrees of difficulty to suit different skill sets. We will supply enough activities to occupy the group for the predetermined timeframe. Activities include bush regen, weeding, planting, mulching, litter collection and educational components. We will provide all tools and equipment.</p>
<p>SAFETY AND SUPERVISION</p> <p>We will provide a safe and secure environment for on-ground works including a first aid trained officer, a first aid kit, completed site risk assessment, safety briefing and all other relevant documentation.</p>
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY GROUP PROVIDES
<p>PERMISSION FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTEERING DAY</p> <p>The School or Community Group is responsible for ensuring all students (participants under the age of 18) attending the volunteering day have been given permission by their parents/guardians. This also includes permission to photograph students participating in Bushcare activities for the day to be promoted on Council's channels. The School or Community Group is to inform the Bushcare team with any concerns about these permissions during the initial planning of the day.</p>
<p>SUPERVISION</p> <p>The School or Community Group is responsible for the supervision of all attendees. People under 16 years of age are to be accompanied by an adult at all times.</p>
<p>TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SITE</p> <p>The School or Community Group is responsible for their own transport to and from the site.</p>
<p>FOOD AND BEVERAGE</p> <p>The School or Community Group is responsible for all food and beverage for participants. Catering can be provided by Council for an additional cost. Please indicate if you'd like further information.</p>
<p>AMENITIES</p> <p>Arrangements to be made by the School or Community Group for on-site comforts e.g. marquee, chairs, tables and other comforts.</p>
<p>PARTICIPANT CONFIRMATION AND CANCELLATIONS</p> <p>Participant numbers should be approximated in 'Expression of Interest' form with actual numbers supplied one week before event. Events can be rescheduled due to adverse weather.</p>

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUP VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Thank you for expressing interest in volunteering with Penrith City Council's Bushcare program. This form is to be completed by the contact person from the organisation that is interested in undertaking voluntary activities on behalf of, or in consultation, with Penrith City Council. It also assists in identifying the training and safety equipment required in accordance with Council's risk management strategies and Work Health and Safety obligations.

Details

Organisation Name

Contact Person

Contact Phone Number

Contact Email Address

Organisation Address

Approx. Number of Participants

Preferred month and dates

Age/Year group of participants

Length of Activity (hours) **NOTE** minimum 1 hour and maximum 6 hours. Sessions can be held between the hours of 8am and 3pm.

What type of activities/themes are you interested in?

Note: Activities will be determined by PCC to align with site priorities.

What would you like the session to focus on?

Anything

Weeding

Planting

Water quality testing

Link to curriculum

Nature walk and talk

Nature-themed craft activity

Mulching

Threatened flora and fauna

Creeks and rivers

Litter collection

Learn more about Australian animals and their homes

Any special needs for participants?

What would you like to get out the volunteering experience? Does this link to a desired outcome for your group/organisation?

How did you hear about our Volunteering Program?

Comments

Thank you for your interest. We will be in contact shortly.

For more information, email our Bushland Management Team at bushcare@penrith.city