



# Summer 2026 Opportunities

**St Andrews Voluntary Service (SVS) is a network of the Union and focuses on finding voluntary projects in our community for staff and student volunteering.**

We've got 5 different project areas: **Animals + Environment, Community, Elderly, Those with Tailored Support Needs, and Youth.** Please look below to find more information about our projects running during the summer!

## Overview:

- **Animals + Environment**

- > St Andrews Environmental Network (StAndEN)
- > Green Shores Saltmarsh Restoration Project
- > Craigtoun Country Park

- **Community**

- > Lead Scotland
- > SupportED
- > North East Fife Community Hub
- > Transition

- **Elderly**

- > Drop-in Cafe at St Andrews Care Home
- > Health Walks at Cambo Gardens

- **Youth**

- > Active Schools Fife
- > Cosmos Centre



# Animals + Environment

*If you have any questions regarding these projects please reach out to Bao at [svsenviro@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:svsenviro@st-andrews.ac.uk)*

## **St Andrews Environmental Network (StAndEN)**

*Who they are:*

St Andrews Environment Network is a charity **aiming to reduce CO2 emissions and promote sustainable living within the community**. Their two main projects are a community garden and the EcoHub. The community garden was previously a neglected space that has been transformed into a community event space, a fully accessible garden, and rewilding area. In following years, StAndEN aims to begin generating their own compost, installing raised beds - ensuring that there are areas which are accessible for people of all abilities - and creating areas to encourage wildlife and pollinators. The Eco Hub has a zero-waste and refill shop, art exhibitions, a StAnd ReUse drop-off point, and people to go to for advice concerning sustainability and the environment.

*Volunteer's role:*

In the community garden, volunteers can come along and help with whatever tasks need to be done that day - including watering, sowing, weeding, harvesting, and other handy tasks. **Volunteer sessions for the Community Garden** are every Thursday 1:00 – 2:30, and volunteers can come for any amount of time. At the Eco Hub, volunteers take on an office-based role. There are many different options for what exactly you want to get involved with - help us serve customers at the Refill Shop, create social media content, or help the team run the Reuse project. Volunteers can come any time that's convenient for them, but 4 hours a week is suggested as a time commitment. However, StAndEN is very flexible.

*Logistics:*

- StAndEn is *accessible by foot, cycle, or bus* – they are located on Kinnessburn Road
- There is no application form - there is no limit to the number of volunteers
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

- **Community Garden volunteer session**  
Every Thursday from 1-2:30pm

## **Green Shores Saltmarsh Restoration Project**

*Who they are:*

The Green Shores project is **Scotland's longest-running coastal habitat restoration project**, with over 25 years of saltmarsh restoration and research. The project plants propagates, carries out research and monitoring work, and installs storm fencing to protect newly established marshes in the early stages. In the 2025 planting season, volunteers helped plant 4,000 polytunnel-grown saltmarsh plants used to help restore salt marshes along the Tay and Eden Estuaries and in Dornoch Firth. Run by Dr. Helena Simmons, the hub of the project is in a polytunnel on the Eden Course adjacent to the Eden Estuary.

*Volunteer's role:*

The Green Shores project is happy to accept volunteers enthusiastic about coastal conservation and ecology, or anyone willing to lend a hand! Volunteers have a wide range of roles, from planting in the salt marsh to polytunnel maintenance to propagating plants! The project hosts volunteer days every Wednesday, but there is no minimum commitment, so come when you're able. If interested, students can be added to the volunteer mailing list, where further details and times will be communicated. Once a student signs up to volunteer, they will be given a briefing and a tour during their first volunteer session.

*Logistics:*

- There is no application form for volunteers
- The project hub is on the Eden Course in a polytunnel and is accessible on foot, by bike, or by the 99 Bus

*Over the summer:*

- **Saltmarshes, Seas and Sustainability Walk**
  - > 17/06/2026 from 10am to 12:30pm
  - > Learn about the work Green Shores is doing to restore saltmarshes and see their plant hub where saltmarsh plants are propagated
  - > This walk and talk will involve clambering on some uneven ground, and on embankment slopes. Dress for the weather, waterproof walking boots are recommended.
  - Free, Booking essential.
  - Contact [greenshores@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:greenshores@st-andrews.ac.uk) to sign up and get the meeting point
  - > details
- **Polytunnel Sessions**
  - > Running over the summer every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm
  - > More details to come
  - > Contact [greenshores@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:greenshores@st-andrews.ac.uk) to get updated information

## **Craigtoun Country Park**

*Who they are:*

Craigtoun Country Park is a park located just outside the center of St Andrews and is open all year round with free entry and parking, spanning 47 acres. They have childrens' rides, playgrounds, activities such as mini golf and go-karting as well as a Park Golf Course or you can just go for a walk in the park and spend some time in nature. It truly caters for everyone's needs. The park is a **historical site** and belongs to Fife Council therefore relying on the local community for its upkeep and maintenance. Our main focus as SVS volunteers will be **helping with the gardens which provide both educational and recreational purposes for the community**. There are different areas of the park containing unique gardens full of beautiful flowers and fauna, all requiring maintenance. These gardens include the Walled Garden, which dates back to the 18th century, and the Tranquility Garden designed to specifically attract butterflies and bees and offer a quiet seating area away from the busyness of the park.

*Volunteer's role:*

Craigtoun are very excited to have student volunteers involved in the upkeep of the park. They have a wide variety of work that volunteers can get involved with, depending on their time commitments and interests. These include building and painting fences, gardening, landscaping and other general maintenance. There is no minimum time commitment from volunteers and the task as well as the hours will be arranged to the volunteer's preference and availability with the Park Volunteer Coordinator once volunteering begins. Volunteers will be given a safety brief, park orientation and discuss any administrative points on their first day volunteering to ensure everything runs smoothly!

*Logistics:*

- There is no application form or criteria for volunteers
- 10 minute drive from the bus station (hour walk)
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

- **Craigtoun Country Fayre**
  - > Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July
  - > They are hoping to launch a new Pixie/fairy trail and would be happy to incorporate students in the organisation
- **Craigtoun Food Festival**
  - > Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
This is a new event that they are running and would love some extra help



# Community

*If you have any questions regarding these projects please reach out to Elahe at [svscommunity@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:svscommunity@st-andrews.ac.uk)*

## **Lead Scotland**

*Who they are:*

Lead Scotland is a national charity **supporting disabled people and carers by providing personalised learning, befriending, advice and information services.**

*Volunteer's role:*

Volunteers will befriend signed up individuals in Fife. Supported by a Befriending Coordinator, befrienders will support befriendees to reduce their sense of social isolation by increasing their connection to their community through:

- Maintaining regular social interactions and building relationships
- Working together to achieve individual befriendee's outcomes and goals
- Supporting befrienders in accessing community-based activities that can be sustained after the befriending relationship ends
- Where possible, accompany befriendees to access group activities alongside other befriendees and befrienders

*Logistics:*

- Befriending meet-ups will take place over **2-3 hours every week, or every second week**. This usually occurs during evenings and weekends in our young carers service (not always) and is more varied within our adult befriending service.
- **There is a befriender handbook and workbook.** There is also access to **training and peer support**. Coordinators are at hand throughout the match to provide support to befrienders.
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

—> Are offering their usual volunteering opportunities

## **SupportED**

*Who they are:*

SupportED Scotland work in communities across Scotland to **support people with an eating disorder, their families and carers.**

*Volunteer's role:*

Volunteers can become befrienders and will:

- Have weekly, one hour phone calls/ video calls/ meet ups with a befriender
- Offer peer support and a listening ear
- Signposting befriendees and escalating any safeguarding issues
- Maintain regular support and supervision sessions Eating Disorder Awareness and Safeguarding Training

Volunteers can also become Volunteer Peer Group Facilitators responsible for:

- Ensuring that everyone attending the group is aware of the Group Guidelines/Rules and to create a safe space to enable group members to share their story
- Encouraging discussion between group members and only interject if they feel that a group member is being excluded or is breaking any rules or guidelines which could disrupt the group or cause distress
- Observing and reporting on any safeguarding concerns and will act as a time keeper and ensure that everyone feels comfortable and has an opportunity to speak if they want to share anything.
- Working with the co host who will be responsible for completing the feedback form. There will be two facilitators at each meeting, with an equal responsibility, though one would be tasked with 'hosting' any online meetings.

*Logistics:*

- Volunteers will be expected to maintain weekly contact with befriendees for a maximum of 6 months or attend weekly 1.5 hour long meetings.
- Volunteers will also receive extensive online befriending training, facilitator training, and Eating Disorder Awareness and Safeguarding Training.
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

—> Are looking for volunteers who would like to join them in building a youth community of support in Tayside.

They are also looking for community ambassadors to fundraise and join them  
—> in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk in September 2026.

### **Why should you apply?**

Depending on the role, we would ask that volunteers have significant experience of eating disorders (whether personally, professionally or academically). We would also ask that if a potential volunteer had lived experience of an eating disorder, they would have been recovered for at least two years.

## **North East Fife Community Hub**

*Who they are:*

The NE Fife Community Hub is a **sustainable community facility which hosts a variety of activities designed to reduce loneliness, enhance mental and physical well-being, and to promote social inclusion.**

*Volunteer's role:*

The Community Hub offers a variety of roles in which volunteers can take part:

- 'Clothesline' clothes bank is highly active, and volunteers are needed to unpack donations, label items with size, age, and season, keep stock rotated, and make up orders
- Wellness Cafe, which is currently undergoing renovations, will host a variety of activities for which volunteers can help. These will include playing board games, dominoes, crafting, knitting, and many other skills such as IT, music, sewing, and more
- Kitchen and Storehouse Foodbank offers roles for volunteers to prepare and serve simple food, stack and operate the dishwasher, and clean dirty dishes
- The Cafe volunteers will primarily be taking food and drinks orders, delivering orders, wiping down and clearing tables, keeping the cafe area organised, and socialising with customers
- Garden volunteers will participate in general tidying, planting, vegetable growing, and upkeep
- Administration volunteers will design posters, order and organise stationary, schedule room bookings, create personnel files, and keep up to date with notices, filing, and copying

*Logistics:*

- Location: St Davids Centre, Albany Park, St Andrews KY16 8BP
- No strict volunteer shift hours for the North East Fife Community Hub. Volunteers are encouraged to visit the hub as often as possible, and to assist in whichever roles they are most comfortable with and/or whichever roles are most in need of additional assistance on the day.
- Great opportunity for volunteers who are unable to make a long-term/intensive time commitment to volunteering, and would prefer to volunteer on a more informal basis
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

—> Offering a wide range of volunteer activities, the hub is in the middle of their renovation so there are plenty of tasks that need doing.

—> Best days to come in are Monday-Friday; volunteers are welcome for as long (or as little) time that they have to spare.

—> At the moment, they are in need of volunteers to organise their clothes bank, which will involve sorting through bags of donated clothes, and also to help with general tasks such as unboxing new furniture and decorating their new community spaces.

## **Transition**

*Who they are:*

**Transition is a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world.**

*Volunteer's role:*

This will depend on the volunteer's interests and skillset. Examples are: sorting and organising donations for St AndReuse, supporting or running small skillshares (workshops) to share specific skills (e.g. crochet, sewing, cooking, upcycling), contributing to the Transition Steering Committee, creating content for social media and our website (e.g. reels, images, blog posts), helping organise large-scale events focused on repair, reuse and skillshare).

*Logistics:*

- A list of projects can be found on the [Get Involved](#) page of the Transition website. Volunteers are needed year-round and are expected to contribute 1-2 hours per week when in St Andrews.
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

*Over the summer:*

—→ Continuing as usual

*Why should you apply?*

You will meet like-minded people from all corners of the local community and be part of important climate action work. You will learn new skills, make new friends and feel more confident about dealing with the challenges the world is facing.



# Elderly

*If you have any questions regarding these projects please reach out to Mary at [svselderly@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:svselderly@st-andrews.ac.uk)*

## **Drop-in Cafe at the St Andrews Care Home**

### *Volunteer's role:*

Make friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and make a difference to the St Andrews House Care Home residents. You and other volunteers will join in on the care home's weekly drop-in cafe, working together to bring a little happiness and joy to their lives. **These sessions tend to last an hour and a half and can vary on who you speak to. But no matter who you talk with, you'll be having a meaningful impact on a resident's life.** No specific skills are needed, all that is needed is an open approach, patience, and genuine curiosity about each of the residents' lives.

### *Logistics:*

- The sessions are every Wednesday from 2-3:30 pm. There is no weekly commitment. However, volunteers are **recommended to try to turn up to at least 1 session a month**
- Directions: In town, Near the Morrisons
- BUS: Take the 90A/91A or 64 or X58 and get off at the community hospital (10-20 minute journey from the St Andrews bus station)
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

### *Over the summer:*

—> Are offering their usual volunteering opportunities

## **Cambo Gardens - Monday Health Walks**

### *Volunteer's role:*

Spend Monday morning walking around the beautiful nature of Cambo Estate and make friends with a group of elderly and guests. Student volunteers are paired with members of the group who may require assistance, thus consistency with the scheduling is important. The walks are approximately an hour every Monday morning at 9:30 A.M., followed by coffee and visiting at the café. They are a wonderful start to the week and provide both mental and physical benefits for everyone involved. You can expect visits with friendly farm animals, peaceful scenery, and good conversation.

### *Logistics:*

- Every Monday morning at 9:30am for roughly an hour
- Walk leader training will be conducted one signed up
- Location: Cambo Estate, Kingsbarns, Fife, KY16 8QD
- Bus: take the 95 from Church Square stop toward Anstruther and get off at Lodge stop (15-20 minute walk from stop to estate)
- Sign up via the Graduate Attributes Portal

### *Over the summer:*

—→ Continuing as usual



# Youth

*If you have any questions regarding these projects please reach out to Bedita at [svsyouth@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:svsyouth@st-andrews.ac.uk)*

## **Active Schools Fife**

*Who they are:*

Fife's Active Schools team work with primary, secondary and additional support needs schools to increase the quality and range of opportunities to participate in sport before school, during lunchtime and after school.

*Volunteer's role:*

*Logistics:*

- Active Schools Fife will go through all options with each volunteer to find something that suits them best to ensure that they have the best volunteer experience.
- In order to be a volunteer, Active Schools Fife requires students to "apply" for the role and undergo a PVG check all of which is paid for by Fife Council.
- [Apply via the form here](#)

*Over the summer:*

—→ Are offering extra-curricular opportunities for young people

## **Cosmos Centre After School Club**

*Who they are:*

The Cosmos Community Centre After School Club is a **busy, fun club for youngsters**. Currently they care for up to 56 youngsters each afternoon. Then, through the school holidays they are open for full days to enable parents or carers to continue in employment or further education. Occasionally they have fundraising events, parties and discos for the children, so these are always busy times when volunteers are very welcome.

*Volunteer's role:*

They are looking for volunteers to come in for an hour, or an hour and a half a week, ideally between the hours of 3:30pm and 5:00pm, after which the Club gets quieter as youngsters are collected. The Club runs every day of the week and volunteers will help with the running of the after school club. They are looking for one volunteer from the university for each weekday afternoon.

*Logistics:*

- Each volunteer has to be vetted through the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) system. Presently that is free for volunteers.
- Each volunteer has an agreement, saying that the Cosmos Centre will look after them, and in return, volunteers will support them in their work with children and maintain confidentiality.

*Over the summer:*

—→ **Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** after school club, between 3:30pm and 5pm

—→ **Monday 6th July - Tuesday 18th August:** especially looking for volunteers between 10am and midday as well as between 2pm and 4/4:30pm