



A Focus On Nature



# MENTORING SCHEME

## INFORMATION BOOKLET

V1.0 2020

# Thanks for your interest in the AFON Mentoring Scheme!

Here at AFON, we work to connect, support and inspire young people interested in nature and conservation. The mentoring scheme is a key part of that mission.

This booklet provides some information on the scheme, to inform your decision on applying.

This booklet is largely for potential mentees - if you are interested in applying to be a mentor please look though the information on our webpage and send me an email to discuss the mentor application process.

Please read this document and the Mentoring Agreement before submitting an application, all of which are available on our webpage: <https://www.afocusonnature.org/mentors>

If you have any questions, please get in touch! I look forward to talking to you over the course of your time in the scheme.

Emily x

Emily Seccombe

Mentoring Officer

[mentors@afocusonnature.org](mailto:mentors@afocusonnature.org)



## Mentoring Scheme Aims:

- Provide support in a competitive sector to those who are passionate and committed
- Tackle the lack of formal development opportunities and clear career paths in the sector
- Promote transition of skills and knowledge
- Maintain young people's enthusiasm and increase age-diversity in the sector
- Provide support to all young people regardless of income, background or education. As long as you have access to the interest, a passion for nature, and commitment to the scheme, you're in. It's completely free thanks to the voluntary work of the mentors and AFON committee.

## A note on our mentors:

Please see our webpage for information on the mentors.

The mentors give their time freely to support young people. They're pretty busy people, so here at AFON we are very grateful for their time!

If you apply to the mentoring scheme, you will need to agree to respond to all correspondence in a timely manner and let both your mentor(s) and AFON know when you choose to end your mentoring relationship.

# Mentoring Scheme Process

## Read

- Explore our webpage: [www.afocusonnature.org/mentors](http://www.afocusonnature.org/mentors)
- Read the Mentoring Guidelines

## Apply

- Complete an application form
- Identify which mentors you'd like to work with, or ask for advice
- Send to [mentors@afocusonnature.org](mailto:mentors@afocusonnature.org)

## Admin

- Mentor Officer will acknowledge receipt of application
- Mentoring Officer will check with mentors if they are able to help

## Mentoring starts

- Mentoring Officer will send an introductory email to mentor and mentee, and will supply the Mentoring Scheme Booklet, which provides further info on the scheme
- Mentee to complete kickstarter survey from the booklet and send to mentor
- Mentor and mentee to discuss best way to progress

## Ongoing mentoring

- Communicate with your mentor, and with the Mentoring Officer when necessary, to get the support and advice needed
- Respond to mentors in a timely manner.
- Complete a feedback survey every 6 months, provided by the Mentoring Officer

## End

- Whether it's because you've changed your goals, or scored your dream role, when you decide that you no longer want to be part of the scheme, please tell your mentor and the Mentoring Officer
- In response, we will ask you to give us some feedback to further improve the scheme

"The AFON mentor scheme provides opportunities that I wish had been available to me when I was starting out in my conservation career. As a mentor it is also very rewarding as you are not only sharing the experience, but learning from the inspiring young people who you are paired with too." - Catriona Corfield



"There are so many different wildlife groups and so much going on in the UK conservation sector, it can be a bit of a minefield. But having someone to point you in the right direction and introduce you to the right people in your area is so helpful." - Joe Middleton



# WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH AFON?

- We have regular writing opportunities – send us a pitch for a blog!
- Find more support from your regional rep, or gain leadership experience by becoming a rep for your area.
- We can promote your project, photos, vlogs – share them with us online!
- Join our Facebook group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/147736862055002/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/147736862055002/)
- Keep an eye on our website and socials for events, conferences and training opportunities.

Check out our website for further details and contacts for the committee.

Got a great idea for how AFON could support young people? Want to work with us on a project? Get in touch!

Twitter: @AFONature

Instagram: @afocusonnature

Web: [www.afocusonnature.org](http://www.afocusonnature.org)