

SUMMER APPRECIATION

Guide for Volunteers

What is Summer of Appreciation?

Summer of Appreciation is a volunteer recognition project created and led by Storyhouse, delivered in partnership with Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA). Six partner organisations are offering exclusive, free experiences throughout summer 2026 as a way of saying thank you to volunteers like you. All you need to do is book your spot and show up!

The Experiences on Offer This Summer

Organisation	Experience Offered
Canal & River Trust	River Cruise from the Anderton Boat Lift Free entry to the National Waterways Museum
Chester Cathedral	Discovery Tours with refreshments Tower Tours with refreshments
Chester Zoo	Tours of volunteer locations in the zoo Tours of the Zoo Nature Reserve
English Heritage	Exclusive tours of Chester Castle
RSPB Burton Mere	Exclusive guided walk across the reserve
Storyhouse	Behind-the-scenes tours Outdoor cinema screening at Storyhouse in the Park

Key Dates

Saturday 23 May 2026	Bookings open on Plinth
1 – 7 June 2026	National Volunteers Week: Events start
June – August 2026	Volunteer experiences running across Cheshire West and Chester
Monday 24 August 2026	Grand finale — outdoor cinema screening, Storyhouse in the Park, Grosvenor Park, Chester (booking essential)

Am I Eligible?

You can take part in Summer of Appreciation if you are:

- An active volunteer with any CWVA member organisation in Cheshire West and Chester

That's it! You don't need to be volunteering a certain number of hours, and your organisation doesn't need to provide any experiences themselves.

How Do I Book?

- Bookings are made online through the CWVA Plinth platform (link provided by your volunteer manager)
- Bookings open on Saturday 23 May 2026
- Events will be available to book 6 weeks before the event, and bookings will close 1 week before the event

Spaces are strictly limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you book a place and can no longer attend, please cancel your booking on Plinth or let your volunteer manager know so it can be offered to another volunteer.

What Do I Need to Bring?

You will need to bring the following to attend any experience:

1. A letter from your volunteer manager OR a volunteer ID card, badge or pass
2. Your booking confirmation email from Plinth

Please note: these experiences are exclusively for volunteers. You cannot bring guests or plus ones. If someone you know would like to take part, encourage them to speak to their own volunteer manager to find out if their organisation is participating. If you need a parent or carer to attend with you, please speak to your volunteer manager.

Are Expenses Payable?

The experiences themselves are completely free of charge. However, travel and any other costs to get to events are not covered by the Summer of Appreciation project.

Whether your organisation can help with travel expenses will depend on its own policies, please speak to your volunteer manager.

Why Does This Matter?

- This is our way of showing you how valued and appreciated you are for the difference you make in our local community
- You have the chance to connect with other volunteers from organisations across the region and share experiences
- You play a part in strengthening the voluntary sector across Cheshire West and Chester, helping our whole community thrive

Questions?

Contact your volunteer manager **Thank you for everything you do. Enjoy your summer!**