

Electra Boat Crew Volunteering

What's involved?

Boat crew work in pairs to provide safe and enjoyable cruises for guests on Electra, Milton Keynes' brand new accessible 12-seat electric trip boat. Safety and customer care are core skills. Many cruises include food (eg cream teas) or activities (eg walks). The programme is varied to appeal to a range of interests, with a particular focus on encouraging families to enjoy being out and about on the Grand Union canal, which runs through Milton Keynes' extensive parkland.

Why do it?

Our volunteers like being active outdoors and working with people. They enjoy learning new skills, doing something for the local community, and having the chance to get more involved in boating.

What's it all for?

Electra volunteers all belong to the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust and operate Electra as a way of raising awareness and funds to support the Trust's work in developing a new waterway park from Milton Keynes to Bedford, as well as supporting our own local canal in MK.

When/where?

Cruises run from March to December each year. Most cruises depart from and return to Campbell Wharf on the Grand Union canal at the heart of Milton Keynes, but over the season we aim to cruise from other locations too, from Wolverton to Bletchley. Training takes place in the autumn and spring, so that during the peak summer months we can host as many guests as possible on public trips and private charters, and get involved in community events on and near the canal.

How much time?

Training to be a Skipper takes a total of 5 days; training to be a Cabin Host takes 3 days. The cruising season runs from March to December, with a peak period for cruising in the summer. You can choose from a roster of opportunities in the daytime and early evening, weekdays and weekends, so that you can dovetail your volunteering with your other commitments. If you have an average of four hours a week that you can devote to volunteering, we'd love to hear from you.