THE CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE FARM TRUST

Trustee Vacancy

Youth Trustee

This is a full trustee role — equal responsibilities, equal voice, equal vote.
We're not looking for a youth representative to tick a box.
We're looking for someone who will genuinely challenge how we think.

About CAFT

Children's Adventure Farm Trust is a farm-based charity in Cheshire. Every year, hundreds of children with additional needs and their families come to us for day visits, activity sessions, and a rare chance to just be themselves. We're working toward 150,000 cumulative visits by 2030. We're a small charity with a big purpose. Our board is hands-on, visible, and actively engaged in the life of the organisation.

Why this role exists

Our board brings together people with a strong range of experience across business.
We're actively seeking a younger perspective. The children and families we serve are growing up in a world that moves fast, and we want someone in the room who understands how young people think, communicate and connect and someone whose instincts complement and challenge ours. This isn't a token appointment. It's a deliberate choice to build a board that's stronger for having a greater range of voices around the table.

Who we're looking for

Beyond that, we're more interested in what you bring to the room than what's on your CV.

You might be someone who:

- Has a personal connection to CAFT - perhaps as a former visitor, volunteer, or family member
- Works with or cares about children, young people or families with additional needs
- Has experience in a relevant field - health, education, social care, digital, communications, fundraising
- Simply cares about what CAFT does and has the energy and commitment to be part of shaping it

No previous board experience required.

What you'll bring

- A perspective that is genuinely different from the current board
- The confidence to speak up, including when you think the rest of us have got it wrong
- Fresh thinking on how CAFT can communicate, grow and engage with the next generation of supporters and beneficiaries
- Commitment and reliability. This is a serious role, and we'd want you to take it seriously
- Curiosity and enthusiasm for the mission

The role itself

As a trustee of CAFT, you'll share legal and governance responsibility for the charity alongside the rest of the board. That's not as daunting as it sounds, and we'll make sure you understand it fully before you start.

- Contributing to strategic decisions about direction, priorities and resources
- Holding the CEO and team to account, in a supportive and constructive way
- Bringing your own perspective and challenge to board discussions
- Sitting on a sub-committee relevant to your skills and interests (typically one hour, every two months, online)

Time commitment
Six board meetings a year (bi-monthly, approximately two hours each). Sub-committee involvement roughly every two months (one hour, online). Some presence at the farm and at CAFT events. We're a visible board and that's part of what makes us work. Minimum four board meetings attended per year.

What CAFT offers you

- A named board mentor, an experienced trustee who will support you from day one
- Full induction to the charity, its governance, and your legal responsibilities as a trustee
- A friendly, committed board that takes governance seriously but isn't stuffy about it
- Genuine influence : you won't be the 'young one' brought in to be seen and not heard
- Real experience of charity governance that is increasingly valued by employers
- All reasonable out-of-pocket expenses covered

Trustees serve a three-year term, renewable once (maximum six years in total).

Apply

We'd love to hear from you — even if you have questions first. Get in touch for an informal conversation before making any decisions.

Contact: Catherine Sandland, Chair of Trustees, on 07946604859 or at csandland.trustee@caft.co.uk

Know someone who'd be perfect? Please share this with them.