



# Volunteer Operational Roles



The Railway runs passenger trains for more than 200 days each year as well as regular shunting of stock for maintenance, events or operational reasons. We rely on volunteers willing to be trained for operational roles. The information below gives you an idea of what is involved in the key roles. There are also plenty of non-operational roles available at the Railway.

## Fireman

Our steam locomotives are operated by a Fireman and Engine Driver. The Fireman position is open to males or females. On a running day, the Fireman will begin preparing the loco at 6.30am. You will be trained to:-

- Prepare the locomotive for operation.
- Check /clean out firebox, ash pan and smokebox
- Lay and light fire.
- Maintain fire and correct water level in boiler when running.
- Assist driver in sighting signals and operating safely.
- Learn Railway Rules whilst training including health and safety rules.

Minimum age to pass out as fireman is 18 (training from age 16).

## Engine Driver

Once competent in firing you can progress to driver. You will be trained to:-

- Prepare loco by oiling all bearing surfaces.
- The driver is in charge of the footplate and drives the train in a safe manner (driver and fireman work as a team).

Minimum age to pass out as a Driver is 21, (training can begin at 18 if passed out as Fireman).

## Guard

The guard is in charge of the train and is responsible for the safety and comfort of our passengers as well as making sure that the trains run to time. He/she is a front line crew member and good people skills are essential.

The guard position is open to males or females. You will be trained to:-

- Prepare the coaches for operation and carry out safety checks.
- Dispatch the train from stations and watch for signals.
- Check tickets, answer queries and assist passengers to get the most from their visit.
- Deal with any incidents or emergencies.
- Co-ordinate and manage the on board crew.
- Learn Railway Rules whilst training including health and safety rules.
- Ensure at the end of operations that the passenger coaches are clean, presentable and secure.

Minimum age to pass out as a guard is 18 (training from age 16).

## Signalman/Signaller

The signalman operates the Victorian mechanical signalbox and controls the movement of trains along the railway. He/she is responsible for setting the correct route for trains, operating signals and recording train movements in the train register. The signalman position is open to males or females. You will be trained to:-

- Signal trains safely along the railway
- Operate the mechanical signalbox and level crossing.
- Manage train arrival, departure and shunting moves.
- Deal with any incidents or emergencies.
- Talk about the signalbox to visitors.
- Learn Railway Rules whilst training including health and safety rules.

Minimum age to pass out as a signalman is 18 (training from age 16).

To apply to volunteer at the Railway, please download a **New Volunteer Form** from the website (Volunteering Tab), email the office: [info@gwili-railway.co.uk](mailto:info@gwili-railway.co.uk), apply in writing: Volunteer Co-ordinator, Gwili Railway, Bronwydd Arms Station, Carmarthen SA33 6HT or phone 01267 238213 (Monday to Friday 10-4pm).