Dr Liz Barron-Majerik MBE, outlines an exciting initiative aiming to utilise the skills and experience of professional foresters to attract the diverse range of new talent the sector needs. Could YOU be a Forestry Ambassador?

Lantra works to ensure that our land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation sectors attract and support the skilled new entrants they need to support a sustainable, water-rich society - this is vital both to enhance the natural environment and to support rural economies. We achieve this by working in close partnership with government, education partners, workforce development and skills agencies, trade organisations, membership bodies and individual businesses.

Our work has shown that there is significant evidence that we need to improve our communications around the importance of key STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to young people. If we are to successfully raise its profile to school leavers and career changers. We all know that scientific and technical skills are in demand and tend to secure the highest paid roles. Those who have participated in STEM activities find there are many personal benefits to taking part, including:

- Building confidence
- Improved planning and communication skills
- Improving awareness of their organisation and industry to a wider audience
- Access to a network of people who are passionate about the development of their sector, providing the opportunity to share ideas, experiences, and resources

Feeling inspired? The process of signing up to the scheme couldn’t be easier: Help inspire the foresters of tomorrow – find out more at stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/join-stem-ambassador-programme

# STEM FORESTRY AMBASSADORS

GUIDING THE FORESTERS OF THE FUTURE

Working with Trees and Timber

A TOOLKIT FOR FORESTRY CAREERS

Encouraging young people into the forestry sector requires a diverse range of engaging resources. A recently published online toolkit, Working with Trees and Timber, has been produced with the aim of helping anyone in the forestry sector speak to young people about a rewarding career in the industry. It supports and provides easy access to the wide range of resources that have been created to promote the sector and which can be used or adapted in a variety of settings.

The toolkit gives tips on engaging youth at various years of age, outlines the many jobs in the forestry sector, gives an overview of the modern forest and timber industry and outlines the range of resources that have been created to support the sector and which can be used or adapted in a variety of settings.

The toolkit is there to help anyone in the industry who might be speaking to young people in the future. We hope it gives useful hints and tips, and points speakers to useful resources that are available.

Working with Trees and Timber has been produced by Scottish Forest & Timber Technologies and Scottish Forestry – download the toolkit at forestry.gov.scot/forests-people/working-with-trees-and-timber

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