



CASE STUDY



Young People's Volunteering Pathway

A project to involve young people in caring for the National Park starting with Junior Rangers following a journey ultimately to a Youth Voice group to enable a young people's perspective in National Park decision making.

Who is involved in delivery?

Coordinated by the Communities and Wellbeing Ranger within the volunteering and Communities Team, supported by Engagement Rangers and other NP officers.

What is involved?

There are currently 5 active Junior Ranger groups in the National Park which meet monthly and take part in activities based upon the special qualities of the National Park.

Green Leaders meet monthly to carry out conservation tasks and meet someone with a green career who tells them of how they got into the role with hints and tips on how they might also enter a green career.

We are working towards the creation of a Youth Voice Group made up of young people aged 18-27 who will be able to offer their perspective to officers and members.

Who are the beneficiaries?

Our Junior Rangers are aged 11-17 and are based at Edale, Longendale, Buxton, Miller's Dale and the South West Peak. Each group has around 10 members.

Green Leaders is aimed at young people aged 18-27. They have been recruited from nearby Universities, our PPCV individuals or are at the start of their working career.

Through their involvement young people will feel included and valued in looking after the National Park and begin a journey of involvement in enjoying, participating and helping to protect the National Park for future generations. NP officers and members who are on average much older will

also benefit from hearing the opinions and concerns of the younger generation.

What are the outputs?

Supported by Ranger Leaders Junior Rangers have worked on a number of small scale conservation projects sometimes in partnership with other organisations such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and our PPCV, such as tree planting, Willow tit nest box building projects. Some Junior Rangers have used their hours as work experience for college courses. The Engagement team is hosting two Junior Rangers on work experience in July.

Green leaders have done stone carving, Otter holt construction, Tree planting, Dew pond restoration and Rhododendron clearance.

What will be the outcomes of the project

We are looking to potentially offer an outreach project in a nearby urban community to foster closer ties with those that might not get the opportunity to visit their nearest National Park. In the short term we need to make the Junior Ranger groups more accessible to a wider audience. We will also work with nearby Universities and Colleges to provide experience for those looking to start a green career via our Green Leaders group.

What has been learnt from the project so far?

We have initially focused on standardising the activities of the Junior Ranger groups with a 2 year program of activities, updating of protocols and risk assessments. Our Green Leaders events have been well supported by staff but need work to provide consistency in numbers attending (we are looking at a potential model used by the Yorkshire Dales National Park to formalise membership with a participating skills and training portfolio).

We have started recruiting for a Youth Voice group and have a good number of potential participants including those that volunteer for us, those that work in the PD for partner organisations. Work will be done to recruit from diverse audiences in the surrounding towns and cities.

