

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

the
John Muir Award
challenges you to...

Discover a wild place

Explore it

Do something to Conserve it

Share your experiences

'It's a beautiful way of
working with people. It
brings out the wonder
of being in nature.'



The main educational initiative
of the John Muir Trust

www.johnmuiraward.org

What is it?

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun and adventure. It is non-competitive and encourages people of all backgrounds to

connect, enjoy and care for the planet's wild places

Why get involved?

Organisations and individuals participate to:

- enhance awareness of wild places
- encourage people to take responsibility and value wild places
- promote personal development through outdoor experiences
- encourage an environmental agenda
- ensure that social circumstances don't stop people from experiencing wild places
- raise awareness of the John Muir Trust and John Muir
- celebrate what people achieve!



The John Muir Award in Action



Allan and Heather Bantick achieved their Conserver Award through discovering and exploring various wild places near their home at Boat of Garten in the Cairngorms. Their activities included creating habitats for crested tits and surveying red squirrels, badgers, otters and bats. Allan commented, 'the John Muir Award has revealed how much more we can do and learn'.

Pupils helped to create new school wildlife gardens at **Ysgol Craig y Don, Llandudno** and visited the local RSPB reserve in Conwy to look at conservation on a larger scale. A small group of pupils with language or literacy difficulties also took part, comparing the different environments of local wild places with the school grounds. The gardens were opened by naturalist and broadcaster Iolo Williams, who also presented pupils with their certificates.



Benefits include

- enjoyment and a sense of achievement
- focus and structure
 - it encourages environmental awareness, understanding and responsibility
- easy to use alongside existing schemes, initiatives, programmes and schools' Curriculum
- it's healthy
- it's free!



*There are no passengers
on Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.'*

Marshall McLuhan



Students from **Cedar House School**, a residential school for young people with social difficulties in Cumbria, gained valuable work experience in woodland management and path maintenance. After several days in Grizedale Forest the students developed a close affinity with nature: 'The forest talks a lot, I like to listen to what it says' (Shane). As they progressed through the Award levels participants not only gained practical skills, their self-confidence increased. They went on to share their experiences through visits to a care home and by mentoring younger students.



A London Wildlife Trust bushcraft project tackled gun, gang and knife crime. The partnership with the **North London Muslim Community Centre** enabled project co-ordinator Enric to highlight links between John Muir's philosophy and the Quran. 'The project gave the young people a better understanding of the natural resources surrounding them and a more respectful approach towards nature'.

How to achieve a John Muir Award

You need to do a range of activities that involve the following four Challenges:

Discover a wild place
Explore it
Do something to Conserve it
Share your experiences

Discover a wild place (or places) for yourself

This can be your school grounds or back garden, or places you go to on trips, expeditions or holidays.



Explore your wild place

Find out more about it and its nature, use all your senses, travel through it...



Conserve - take some personal responsibility

Do something to care for wild places and nature.



Share your experiences

Let others know what you've been up to, what you've achieved, what you've learned.



There are three Levels of the John Muir Award. The same four Challenges above are repeated for each Level, with increased involvement in time, activity and responsibility.

Discovery Award

4 days
(or equivalent)
minimum time
commitment

Introductory Level



Explorer Award

8 days
(or equivalent)
minimum time
commitment

Intermediate Level



Conserver Award

20 days
(or equivalent)
time commitment,
over at least 6 months

Advanced Level

What's the John Muir Trust?

The John Muir Trust aims to ensure that

Wild places are valued by all,
and
Wild land is protected
throughout the United Kingdom.



Photo of Sandwood Bay by John Comrie of Morrison's Academy, Crieff. John has completed his Explorer Level and was a prize-winner in the Focus photography competition for schools with this picture.

The Trust was set up in 1983. It Conserves wild land, Campaigns to safeguard it, and Inspires people to care about the wild and natural environment. It owns a range of properties, including Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom.

The John Muir Award was launched by the Trust in 1997 as its main educational initiative.

The John Muir Trust is a membership organisation which you are welcome to join, either as an individual, family or group.

For more information visit



www.jmt.org



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Who was John Muir?

John Muir was born in 1838 in the Scottish fishing town of Dunbar. As a child he developed a deep love of the natural world.



This grew into a lifelong journey of discovering, exploring and conserving wild places, and sharing his experiences with others.

At the age of 11 he emigrated with his family to America. There, in his adopted homeland, he became known as the 'founding father' of the world conservation movement, and helped form the National Park movement.

John Muir pioneered what is now known as ecology – the idea that animals, plants and humans are all connected to each other and to their environment.

'When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.'

Should he mean anything to me?

If John Muir himself seems a distant figure to some, his message – that we need to experience, enjoy, and care for wild places – is relevant to all our lives in the 21st century.

It's this message that is at the heart of the John Muir Award. It encourages you to follow in Muir's footsteps, and experience, enjoy and care for wild places yourself.

In Partnership

The John Muir Trust is proud to work with organisations throughout the UK to manage and host the John Muir Award. Key partnerships include the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Cumbria Youth Alliance, Durham County Council/OASES, YHA (England & Wales) and The Outward Bound Trust.



'You know you're getting something at the end. The certificate is a really good achievement.'



What to do next

- Visit **www.johnmuiraward.org** for more information.
- Contact John Muir Award staff with your ideas or questions. Call the main office or see the website for your regional contact.
- Fill in a Proposal Form – download from the website, or ask staff for one – and send it to your local contact. They'll discuss this with you and register your interest.

'How wonderful it is that no-one need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.'

Anne Frank



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Mixed Sources
Product groups made with a mixture of
Forest and other controlled sources



OUTDOOR
AND
SUSTAINABILITY
EDUCATION
SERVICE



THE
OUTWARD
BOUND TRUST
Adventures for life

