



Somerset Rural Youth Project's new Environmental Volunteering opportunities: **'Blackdown Environmental Teams'**

Blackdown Environmental Teams is funded by Making it Local, a locally managed grants scheme in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB areas, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, South West RDA and Leader.

The Blackdown Environmental Teams project is offering the opportunity for Young People to get involved in protecting their natural environment within the Blackdown Hills.

At the same time young volunteers will have the opportunity to learn new skills and gain nationally recognised qualifications.



- Receive accredited qualifications and certificates of recognition.
- Gain new skills to improve employability and open up new areas of interest.
- Help protect and improve the landscape, conservation and amenity value of the Blackdown Hills.
- Meet new people and get to enjoy the outdoors whilst working with our fun and friendly Environmental Volunteering team.

The Blackdowns Environmental Teams will assist with the management of protected areas such as by restoring habitats, improving footpaths and access, clearing invasive species, drystone walling and many other activities that will improve the Blackdowns area and introduce new skills and experiences



For more information see overleaf





Blackdown Environmental Teams

Opportunities are open to young people living within the Making it Local area.

The young volunteers will undertake practical environmental activities introducing new skills and experiences that benefit the natural environment.

Young People will be invited to Taster days to give them an idea of the things we do and To let them decide if they would like to continue with the programme of volunteer days leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

As an accredited ABC Awards centre, SRYP will offer the opportunity for young people to undertake a Level 1 QCF accredited Unit in Practical Environmental and Conservation Skills which involves participating on at least 6 volunteer days.

The young volunteers can also have their volunteering efforts recognised through ~~V~~involved certificates and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Linking up with environmental organisations within the Blackdown Hills AONB, the Environmental Volunteering team will set up a programme of activities for the young volunteers to assist in protecting and enhancing the conservation, landscape and amenity value of the Blackdown Hills.

The skills and qualifications that the young people gain will help improve employability and open up new areas of interest.

The environmental Volunteering team will aim to work with schools, colleges, Connect SW, Youth Clubs and individuals as well as others interested in volunteering and are flexible in meeting the needs of those interested in the opportunities available.

For more information or to register your interest please contact;

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