

Hopetoun Junior Rangers Pilot scheme Plan for 2013

Background:

The Hopetoun Junior Ranger (HJR) scheme has been established to provide a follow on club from the Young Hopetoun Club (YHC). The YHC caters for 7-12 year olds. The HJR will focus on 12-18 year olds. The HJR will be led by the Hopetoun House Ranger Service and will meet once a month between 1.30pm-4pm. Volunteer leaders from the Hopetoun Volunteer Rangers will also be used in conjunction with a paid member of staff.

Sessions will be planned to be outdoors and will focus on a number of themes including practical conservation work, surveying and identification. There will be additional aims of developing team working skills and self-confidence. HJR can also contribute to attendees Duke of Edinburgh or John Muir award.

It is also hoped the HJR will draw from and contribute to the Hopetoun Green Volunteers (HGV), the Hopetoun monthly conservation group. Periodically the HGV will run in the morning before the HJR session. Thus, enabling the attendees to have a full day outdoors with the Hopetoun Ranger Service.

As Hopetoun House is a visitor attraction a grounds entrance fee must be charged for the HJR. This will be kept as low as possible (£2.50 per session).

Rationale:

AIMS:

- To make available opportunities for young people to gain practical environmental skills.
- To enhance young people's knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of their local outdoor environment.
- To generate an interest in future career opportunities in Rangering and related vocations.
- To provide outdoor learning opportunities and challenges which complement the curriculum for excellence.
- To provide a safe environment to encourage group working and friendship.
- To boost young people's confidence and help to develop social skills, improve physical and mental wellbeing and encourage social awareness and an understanding of different cultural values.
- To highlight the role Ranger Services can play in delivering their employer's priorities.

Criteria:

- targeted primarily at those in the 11 – 18 age group
- involves the group in a minimum of 12 meetings/events
- includes voluntary elements in the evenings, school holidays or at weekends
- involves a substantial amount of time spent outdoors
- led by professional Rangers.

Attendees Benefits:

Being a Junior Ranger can help young people become:

- **Successful learners:** with enthusiasm and motivation for learning, able to learn independently and as part of a group.
- **Responsible citizens:** able to evaluate environmental issues.
- **Confident individuals:** with self-respect and a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being, able to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle.
- **Effective contributors:** with resilience and self-reliance, able to work in partnership and in teams and take the initiative and lead.

They will:

- Learn new skills.
- Gain environmental experience.
- Meet new people and friends.
- Increase in confidence.
- Be physically active.
- Benefit John Muir/Duke of Edinburgh awards.
- Take part in national projects.

Benefits to the Ranger service

1. The target group (11-18 year olds)

- Provides the next stage from the Young Hopetoun Club.
- Will link to Volunteer Ranger programme.
- Schemes deliver to a wide age range that can be “hard to reach” and fills an age gap between other existing groups
- A structured programme of activities gives a breadth of opportunities for Ranger Services to work with different groups with a wide variety of skills and abilities
- Regular contact provides opportunities to engage, and create a good lasting relationships with young people, both within and outside formal education.
- Improved mental and physical well-being
- Working with 11-18 year olds can help meet social inclusion targets
- There is a recognised demand for places on schemes such as these.

2. The sharing and passing on of skills to young people.

- Passing on of environmental skills and knowledge.
- Improving communication skills of young people through shared learning.
- Opportunities for building confidence, self esteem, social skills, life skills, developing leadership, responsibility and decision making
- A programme of activities will provide continuity and recognise benefits of regular attendance.

3. An Introduction to careers and awards

- The chance to get the young people “switched on and motivated” by sharing enthusiasm and job skills.
- Participants may well take on a conservation role in the future – helps sustain skills within the organisation and the profession.
- Links with formal education – school, college, link with professional Ranger award.

- Good volunteer opportunities – providing work experience.
- A structured programme provides progression for awards.

4. Organisational benefits

- Provides the next stage from the Young Hopetoun Club.
- Will link to Volunteer Ranger programme.
- Encourage youngsters' participation in key activities.
- Engages teenagers who can cause problems on sites/reserve.
- Helps reduce problems with damage to property and image of a site
- A close link with a particular conservation project can be an advantage.
- Opportunities for working closely with other members of the community.
- Good for funding and image of the organisation.
- Gets conservation work done on the ground and can help relieve pressure on organisation's staff.

5. Environmental benefits

- Advocacy role for the natural environment and Ranger Services.
- Opportunity to do work that otherwise wouldn't get done.
- Protects and Justifies Rangers' job.
- Connects young people with the natural environment through involvement and ownership of their local outdoor space.
- Provides a source of trained experienced staff for future management of sites.

6. Personal and professional development

- "Junior Rangers bring energy and enthusiasm to our work"
- "Fun for us to do"
- Opportunity to enthuse young people about Rangering.
- Protects and justifies Rangers' job.
- Time spent on the scheme can contribute to personal professional development/Ranger Award.

Plan:

- Introduce in 2013.
- 12 sessions a year.
- Meet – Saturday afternoon, 1.30pm-4pm.
- Limit of 12 young people per session.
- Cost of £2.50 per session.

Sessions will include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical conservation work • Wildlife watching and surveying • Identification skills • Woodland Art • Environmental Games • Fire building • Orienteering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage Sizzle • Bumblebee survey • Butterfly survey • Badger surveying. • Bat surveying. • Geocaching. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Advertising Summary:

Join a brand new group for 12-18 year olds led by the Hopetoun Ranger Service within the stunning grounds of Hopetoun House.

Sessions will include:

- Practical conservation work
- Wildlife watching and surveying
- Identification skills
- Woodland Art
- Environmental Games
- Fire building
- Orienteering

Join up and gain new skills, meet new friends, get active outdoors and have a lot of fun!