



Langside College and the John Muir Award: Case Study

May 2009

The John Muir Award Provider

Langside College, Section of Continuous & Inclusive Learning, Healthy Living Class

The John Muir Award participants

Students with varied ability levels and additional support needs, for example this may include people with mental health issues and learning disabilities. Ages range from 18 – 70 years old.

Why get involved with the John Muir Award?

"I felt that the Award would work well with the Healthy Living class by adding an extra dimension to what we achieve through the course. It helps recognise the work outside the classroom as well as what goes on in the classroom" explained course tutor Kelly.

"The key aims of the course are sustainability, healthy living and citizenship. By doing the John Muir Award we can help meet these aims by actively enjoying wild places close to us in Glasgow, thinking about how we can minimise our impact on the planet, and actively get involved in putting something back too."

"I now live healthier and enjoy nature in the parks more." Wendy, student



What worked well?

The John Muir Award has been good because of its flexibility in terms of meeting criteria in different ways, and not having to be tied to a rigid plan. We made up our own Healthy Living & John Muir Award folders. It was great to see everyone take ownership of their folders and show an interest in looking back on their work. This has even helped with team work as Kelly explains; "I've been amazed. William has difficulty speaking and he communicates with the aid of an electronic speech computer. He now helps Marion do her writing in the classroom as her literacy skills need support."



Kelly asked the class what they had achieved

- Working as a team, learning to work together
- A lot of laughs
- We are fitter (Wendy has lost 6 pounds)
- We appreciate the parks in Glasgow a bit more
- We care for green spaces more.

"I like going out and doing the John Muir Award, it keeps me occupied." Joan, student

How have we made a difference?

- By helping keep our green spaces clean throughout the seasons.
- By telling our friends and carers what we do, and asking them to do it too.

“Everyone got involved with our litter clear ups which was really encouraging,” added Kelly, “but the hit activity was recycling. When the students have their break in the canteen now, they don't use the bins; they'll bring their rubbish up to our departmental recycle banks. Isn't that good?!”

Key messages from the students

- To love and care for our green places in Glasgow so other people can enjoy them too.
- To take learning outdoors, and show that learning can happen anywhere.

“I like to walk in the parks and I've discovered new birds.” William, student



Future development plans

Some of the Glasgow projects we visited have volunteering opportunities suitable for some students.

We aim to run the John Muir Award for the next class, and we are looking at how we can increase the challenge for some of the keen ones interested in progressing to the next level.

“I have found more parks in Glasgow by doing this class and Award.” Susan, student

Everyone in the John Muir Award - Song by Wendy

I like being in this Award
All of us have a good time and this is a good class
That everyone has a good time

chorus

Everyone in the John Muir has fun
We enjoy being part of this
It is good the John Muir Award.

We go to parks and see the nature
and we do healthy living
That everyone has fun in the Award
We find this good the John Muir Award

We always see nature everywhere
Oh we see nature in the parks
That everyone has a good time.

