

Using The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the John Muir Award

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

The John Muir Award and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) are both nationally recognised Awards that support personal development. The John Muir Award offers a framework to support and enhance experiences within the Expedition, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Residential sections. Both Awards can be easily integrated. By ensuring that participants recognise how they have fulfilled the criteria of each, the John Muir Award can contribute to a DofE programme.

What is the John Muir Award?

The John Muir Award is a nationally recognised environmental award focusing on wild places. It encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places in a spirit of fun and adventure.

Four Challenges are at the heart of each John Muir Award. Designed to encourage awareness, understanding and action, participants identify their own places and activities to meet these challenges:

- **Discover** a wild place - on your doorstep or further afield
- **Explore** it - find out more about it
- **Conserve** it - take personal responsibility to care for your chosen wild place
- **Share** experiences and celebrate achievements



For an introductory film, Information Handbook, and case studies visit www.johnmuiraward.org

Why use John Muir Award with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

For DofE Leaders

- The Challenges of the John Muir Award can be used as a framework for further engaging participants with wild places.
- Its flexibility allows it to be used to meet the specific needs of individuals and groups.
- There is minimal bureaucracy involved in planning and running a John Muir Award.
- Continued Professional Development opportunities are available for (teaching) staff through training events.
- The John Muir Award is free for all to use.

For DofE Participants

- It helps to focus on the nature, landscapes, and wildlife – and our relationships with them - that are traditionally experienced in the achievement of the DofE at all stages.
- It promotes a sense of personal responsibility and respect for the natural environment.
- It stimulates broader interests and passions linked to the natural environment that can be pursued in future.
- Activities undertaken allow for development of a range of [employability skills](#), self-motivation and confidence through new experiences and working with other people and organisations
- The John Muir Award is progressive and can align with movement through the three levels of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award or be used as an introduction to it.

“Using the John Muir Award alongside The Duke of Edinburgh's Award facilitates a structured project to complete while in the wild. It also increases appreciation of the environments which the student will find themselves in”

DofE Leader, Ulidia Integrated College



The John Muir Award in use

Expedition

The John Muir Award can provide added focus for the Expedition aim. It can help participants to link their adventurous journeys with the natural environments they encounter. It promotes a holistic experience of wild places, encouraging participants to have a greater awareness, enjoyment and sense of responsibility for them.



"The John Muir Award encourages young people to heighten their senses when taking on a challenging expedition. I'm aware that the participants often find the 'Conserve' aspect incredibly rewarding as they are supporting and helping the environment they are trekking through - something many have never done before." **Co-ordinator, Poltair School**

"The focus it brings to the expedition aim is brilliant. The students genuinely care about what they are doing. Each new group I run seems to grow in their ambitions and become more driven to make a difference. It really inspires the students to care about the environment around them." **Co-ordinator, Penrice Academy**

Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections



The John Muir Award can form the basis of a project for participants interested in the natural environment and can easily help them to complete the Volunteering, Skills or Physical sections. This could take place within the community, a local park or support conservation work in a National Park. Participants keen to develop skills based in the outdoors could also achieve a John Muir Award, for example, via a focus on learning to canoe, dry stone walling, or woodland management.

"We have used the Discovery Award to support and evidence the Volunteering section of the D of E Award for several years. It gives further focus to their usual woodland activities and experiences, which are generally very positive. They really enjoy the John Muir Award, something that is achievable within a shorter time frame, success!" **Course leader, Tresham**

Residential projects

The John Muir Award can be an integrated part of a Residential project in which participants experience and enjoy wild places and take part in active conservation. This might involve working alongside and in partnership with organised conservation groups and rangers.



The residential gives an opportunity to carry out some volunteer work. Using the John Muir Award has encouraged conservation projects - creating paths, planting willow fences and coppicing; activities that gave students a sense of achievement and pride when completed. At the end of their course the students are required to give a presentation. On more than one occasion students have commented on how the John Muir Award has opened their eyes to environmental concerns and how important it is to conserve the environment." **Lead Instructor, Peat Rigg Outdoor Training Centre**

Contact us

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