

Achieving awards in, through and for nature.

Examples of nature-based learner journeys, pathways and progression.



Early Years & Primary School

RSPB Wild Challenge Award

Suitable for early years, primary schools and also for families to do at home.

Progress through Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards.

[more information](#) →

Ages 4-14 years

Scottish Junior Forester Award

Suitable for schools, community organisations and home educating families.

[more information](#) →

Ages 11-18 years

SCRA Junior Ranger Award

Junior Ranger programme is the first step in professional development with the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association.

[more information](#) →

Primary & Secondary School

John Muir Award

Suitable for families, upper primary, secondary and adults.

Progress through Discovery, Explorer and Conserver Awards.

[more information](#) →

Ages 14-25 years

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Suitable for ages 14 - 25 years.

Progress through Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards.

[more information](#) →



A snapshot of national awards available in Scotland.
For an overview of awards opportunities see [Awards Network](#).

JOHN
MUIR
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Nature-based awards – what are the benefits?

Youth awards provide opportunities to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills for learning, life and work. They can offer motivation and positive engagement with education, and valuable recognition of achievement.

Nature-based awards also create opportunities for people to benefit from spending time enjoying, learning about and caring for nature, including:

- Hands-on, experiential and real-world learning experiences.
- Building valuable skills and knowledge – from practical capabilities and expanding environmental awareness, such as navigation, wildlife ID or path maintenance, to developing transferable skills, such as team work, communication and problem-solving.
- Think global, act local – a chance to connect climate and biodiversity crises with Learning for Sustainability in action and be a positive force for change, through conservation work, advocacy and adopting sustainable choices.
- Connecting with nature to support health and wellbeing – from fresh air and increased physical activity, to tuning into nature and gaining headspace.
- Nature and wild places inspiring responses such as creativity, curiosity and connection.
- Taking action for nature helps individuals feel good about the difference they can make, as well as benefitting wildlife, biodiversity and communities.

Awards Network

In Scotland, there is a diverse mix of awards on offer from a range of organisations. This offers potential to make connections and create progressive opportunities – whether designing experiences that integrate different awards in parallel, or mapping out potential pathways that embed a variety of award opportunities throughout learner journeys.

The [Awards Network](#) is the network of youth work awards organisations in Scotland - a forum for providers of non-formal learning programmes for young people that are recognised by youth awards. Its vision is that young people's non-formal learning youth awards are nationally recognised and equitably valued with formal learning qualifications as evidence of attainment and achievement.

The Awards Network [website](#) brings together in one place award information, impact and practice case studies, resource links and more. Go online to search the wide range of youth awards available. See also [Amazing Things](#) – the guide to youth awards in Scotland.



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