

Youth Social Action for Nature

What is it?

“Young people taking practical action in the service of others...in order to create positive social change that is of benefit to the wider community as well as to the young person themselves.”

National Youth Agency

Youth social action offers a great way to tackle eco-anxiety (experienced by over two-thirds of young people) by taking positive action and making valuable changes to your local community/school/youth club, which also make a positive difference to nature and the environment. This could include volunteering, fundraising, campaigning or even transforming spaces and places through practical projects.

Since 2018, London Wildlife Trust together with project partners London Youth, Headliners and John Muir Trust has been providing opportunities for young people to engage with and protect London's wild spaces, through the Keeping it Wild project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund. This has including involving young people in social action opportunities focused on nature, mental health, connections in local green spaces and environmental action.

Why is it important?

As well as making a positive difference to the environment and/or your local community, getting involved with social action is also an opportunity to meet new people, develop new skills (for example, confidence, team working skills, project management skills), gain experience and increase your wellbeing.



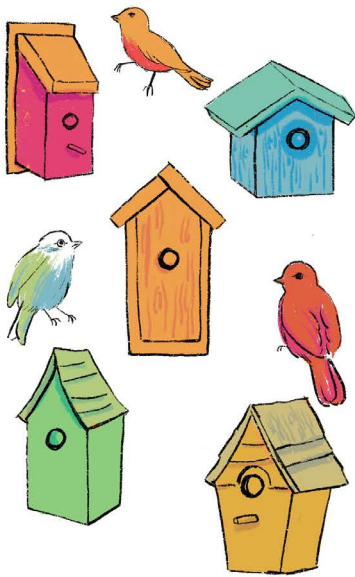
John Muir Award

An environmental award scheme open to everyone, all you need to do is meet the following criteria as part of your social Action project:

- **Discover** – enable young people to discover for themselves the wild places and nature on their doorstep that may be ‘hidden away’
- **Explore** – inspire young people to explore their local nature reserve or local green space and find out how it’s relevant to them
- **Conserve** – provide opportunities for young people to conserve wildlife and wild spaces, to take personal action and responsibility for both, and to survey, campaign within the local community around nature conservation.
- **Share** – encourage young people to share their experiences – what they have learnt and love about their local wildlife/wild spaces – to the wider public, including their peers.

Why not weave them in and bag yourself an award at the same time? [Find out more information here](#)

Project ideas to help YOU take action for nature



Create a new or help existing wildlife habitats



Nature themed arts projects



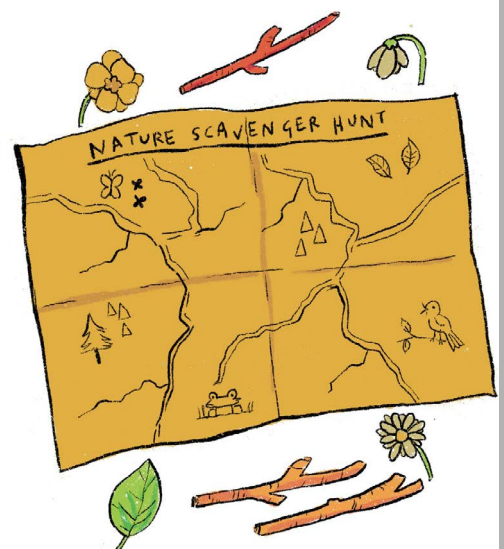
Make a wildlife garden including mini beast areas and a pond (of any size)



Produce digital media



Launch social media campaigns



Devise nature scavenger hunts and maps

"Young people have the enthusiasm and energy to make the world a better place. Social action harnesses this idealism for the benefit of both the young people themselves and others" #iWill

[#iWill website](#)

Find out more

We hope you feel inspired by these ideas based on some of the fantastic projects that young people have designed and delivered as part of the Keeping it Wild project at London Wildlife Trust. [Find out more via our Wild Youth Hub.](#)