



"I enjoyed myself so much. I have learnt to appreciate the outdoors and nature."

Flock Together Academy, a new partnership between London Wildlife Trust and Flock Together, inspires a wave of young naturalists from backgrounds underrepresented in green spaces

Flock Together Academy's ambition is to inspire a wave of young naturalists from backgrounds historically underrepresented in the nature conservation sector and green spaces. Through progressive sessions designed by creatives from the Flock Together community, young Londoners will connect to the natural world around them and develop a stronger relationship with the outdoors.

Academy sessions take place on weekends and during school holidays and invite 11-20-year-olds to take part in activities that enable them to connect with the city's nature in a relatable way. These include mindfulness exercises, creative workshops such as making beats, flag making and spoken word, birdwatching, and hands-on planting. Sessions are designed to equip young people with skills and tools to make connection and familiarity with the outdoors a lifelong practice, in a way that suits them and their interests.

The sessions are hosted on London Wildlife Trust nature reserves closest to the young participants' homes, making it more likely that they will continue to visit. These nature reserves include Woodberry Wetlands in Hackney, Camley Street Natural Park in Camden, Hutchinson's Bank in Croydon, Walthamstow Wetlands in Waltham Forest, and Sydenham Hill Wood in Southwark.

This exciting new partnership between London Wildlife Trust and Flock Together will enable the next generation to be supported in new ways, reaching under-served young people who have been underrepresented in the conservation sector, the wider environmental movement, and green spaces.

Five Academies have been delivered so far with 75 young people attending altogether. Sessions have been enjoyed by young people and youth workers alike; feedback received included:

"Both thumbs up! It was much more fun than I expected it to be....I feel like I've learnt so much in just one day. I hope I can come here again."

"It was a brilliant opportunity for young people...to step out of their usual environment."

“Encouraging young people to enjoy nature, be in the moment and enjoy the environment around them.”

Emily Fox, Youth Programmes Manager at London Wildlife Trust said

“We are delighted to be partnering with Flock Together to deliver this exciting initiative for young Londoners on London Wildlife Trust nature reserves. Flock Together Academy is a fantastic opportunity for young people to experience and immerse themselves in nature through fun, creative and interactive activities, in addition to empowering and inspiring them to take action for nature locally in their own ways.”

Nadeem Perera, Wildlife Director at Flock Together said

“It’s been amazing to see the development of our academy platform from our initial partnerships with Arc’teryx, and Sony. Now, Flock Together and London Wildlife Trust are proud to announce the partnership with VF Foundation for the next set of our Academy sessions this year.

Our work will go a long way to forging ties between the next generation of thinkers using the progressive methods of VF, and our own innovative approach to using nature as an educational tool. We aim to inspire a new wave of young scientists who will produce imaginative solutions to the problems that both our community and the natural world are facing, as well as having bags of fun along the way.”

If you are interested in this opportunity for your group of young people, please get in touch: efox@wildlondon.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR

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About London Wildlife Trust

Founded in 1981, London Wildlife Trust is dedicated to protecting and conserving the capital's wildlife

wildlondon.org.uk

@WildLondon

London Wildlife Trust is dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of London's wildlife and engaging London's diverse communities in nature through our nature reserves, education, volunteering, and campaigning. Our vision is a London alive with nature, where everyone values and takes action for wildlife.

In 2011, London Wildlife Trust was the first Wildlife Trust to publish a diversity action plan. Since then, our [Keeping it Wild project](#) has engaged over 800 young Londoners from backgrounds underrepresented in nature conservation. This work has renewed our focus on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, and we are aiming for 41% of the people we work with to identify as People of Colour or coming from Black, Asian, or minoritised ethnic backgrounds, reflecting the range of ethnic backgrounds represented in London. Our partnership with Flock Together will be essential in enabling us to achieve this target.

About Flock Together

flocktogether.world

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Flock Together is a nature support group combatting the underrepresentation of black, brown and POC in the "outdoors".

Launched in June 2019, just after the murder of George Floyd and at the height of the first UK lockdown, founders Ollie Olanipekun and Nadeem Perera created the group to share with their wider POC community the proven mental health benefits they have both been afforded through bird watching and spending time in nature. At that point in time, that support was needed more than ever. With monthly walks taking place in green spaces across London, Flock Together has amassed huge interest.

The walks are now attended by 70+ people of colour and London membership has just passed 600 members, with 15k Instagram followers reflecting the wider national and international interest.