



## **PRESS RELEASE**

November 2021

### **Grants available for outdoor learning groups in Wales**

Charities and not-for profit organisations in Wales, committed to helping get young people outdoors, are being invited to apply for a grant towards employing an Outdoor Learning Officer.

There are ten grants available to groups across the UK, in this latest round of Outdoor Learning Officer Grants given by educational charity The Ernest Cook Trust. Each grant is worth £15,000 per year, for three years, and can be used towards funding the salary of an Outdoor Learning Officer, who will help promote the benefits of getting outdoors to young people and their communities.

The Ernest Cook Trust works across the UK and its Head of Grants, Suzie Paton, said they were keen to encourage applications from Wales, as there are currently no Outdoor Learning Officers funded by the Trust in the country.

“We know that inspirational educators are key to helping young people form lasting connections with the natural environment,” said Suzie.

“This is why we prioritise charities and organisations whose approach is to encourage young people to enjoy the outdoors and engage with nature. The Outdoor Learning Officers will educate communities about land, food production and biodiversity, their work will enable society to have a healthy respect for their local environment and drive sustainable behaviour.”

Maxwell Apaladaga Ayamba is the Outdoor Learning Officer at Sheffield Environmental Movement, whose role has been part-funded by The Ernest Cook Trust. Recently, Maxwell won the Heritage category in the National Lottery Awards 2021.

He said: “Without funding from The Ernest Cook Trust we would have struggled in this current climate to carry on. Our vision is to make the countryside and green spaces accessible and equitable, not just so that everyone can enjoy being outdoors but to enable people to be environmental champions and agents of change within their communities.”

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Each grant recipient's new recruit will also get an opportunity to join The Ernest Cook Trust's network of Outdoor Learning Officers, sharing best practice and exchanging ideas and skills. As well as giving grants for outdoor learning activities, The Ernest Cook Trust creates outdoor experiences for children, young people and their families, on its own estates and with partner estates across the country.

Applications are open to charities and not-for-profit organisations in the UK. Projects focusing on supporting people with disadvantage – including disadvantage for social, physical, economic or community reasons – are prioritised.

For more information visit <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/everything-outdoors/outdoor-learning-officer-grant/>.

