



PRESS RELEASE

May 2023

Community groups awarded almost £150k to help get youngsters outside

Ten organisations, striving to support their local communities and the environment, have been granted funding to help get young people outdoors and connecting with nature.

Each of the ten successfully applied to The Ernest Cook Trust for a grant towards funding the salary of an Outdoor Learning Officer, whose mission is to promote the benefits of getting outdoors. The ten were selected because of their ability to support young people living in underserved communities.

The grant for each organisation is worth up to £15,000 per year, for three years. This was the third cohort of Outdoor Learning Officers to be funded by The Ernest Cook Trust, bringing the total based across the UK to 30.

Suzie Paton, The Ernest Cook Trust's Head of Grants & Partnerships, said each of the organisations receiving the grant had demonstrated their commitment to helping young people get outdoors to become better connected with nature.

"We know that inspirational role models are key to helping young people form lasting connections with the natural environment," she said. "This is why we prioritise charities and organisations whose approach is to encourage young people to enjoy the outdoors and engage with nature."

Each Outdoor Learning Officer will also join The Ernest Cook Trust's Outdoor Practitioners Education Network (OPEN), sharing best practice and exchanging ideas and skills.

The ten organisations with a new Outdoor Learning Officer are:

- [Eden Rivers Trust](#) - Penrith
- [Groundwork Greater Manchester](#)
- [Morecambe Bay Partnership](#)
- [Ribble Rivers Trust](#) – Clitheroe, Lancashire

(continues...)

- [Susan's Farm](#) - Carlisle
- [The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & N Merseyside](#)
- [Creative Sustainability](#) - Gloucestershire
- [The Friendship Café](#) - Gloucestershire
- [Young Gloucestershire](#)
- [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](#)
(which has deferred its project start date to April 2024)

The Ernest Cook Trust is a UK educational charity committed to helping young people and their communities develop a lifelong journey of learning, appreciation and respect for the countryside through a range of Outdoor Learning experiences.

The Trust delivers programmes on its own estates and with partner estates. Through grant-giving, it supports other organisations in the field of Outdoor Learning, and awards some £2m in a range of grants programmes each year. For more information, visit <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>.

