

The John Muir Award

If you choose to run a yearlong outdoor learning programme for your students and a formal qualification structure - such as the [Gateway of Progression Qualifications](#) - is not appropriate, The John Muir Award scheme offers an alternative approach.

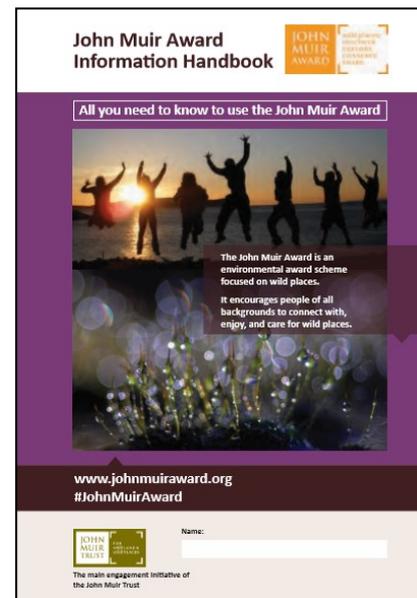
DISCLAIMER

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission (Erasmus+). The document reflects the views only of the ACE-Wild team and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It supports people to connect with, enjoy and care for nature, landscape and the natural environment. The award:

- is about adventure, personal growth, enjoyment, art, culture & creativity
- easily links to local places and context – from **school grounds** and urban settings to National Parks, coastlines, rivers and mountain ranges
- offers a **structure for your own activities**. It isn't a programme, and it doesn't have a set syllabus.
- offers a way of engaging with topics that some might find daunting or inaccessible - sustainability, biodiversity, citizenship, 'the environment'...
- can be used to link positive outdoor experiences to a **range of themes** – curriculum, healthy lifestyles, youth work, employability, wellbeing...
- is supportive – it can **easily be used by non-outdoor specialists**
- is inclusive – social circumstances don't need to stop people from experiencing wild places
- is simple to use and low on bureaucracy - simple, "in-house" assessment by leaders
- is easy to use alongside existing schemes, initiatives, programmes and schools' Curriculum
- is **free** to use



[PDF1 - John Muir Award Handbook](#)

A brief overview of the Award is given overleaf but the Handbook ([PDF 1](#)) giving all of the information you may need can be downloaded from the website.



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Erasmus+

The John Muir Award (cont.)

To achieve a John Muir Award, each participant must:

- Meet four Challenges - **Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share**
- Complete the required time commitment
- Show enthusiasm and commitment towards their involvement
- Have an awareness of John Muir - understand what the John Muir Award is and why they are participating

There are 3 different Award Levels – **Discovery, Explorer and Conserver** – to encourage a progressive involvement. Each level requires a different time commitment as shown opposite.

Discovery Award	Explorer Award	Conserver Award
4 days (or equivalent) minimum time commitment	8 days (or equivalent) minimum time commitment	20 days (or equivalent) time commitment, over at least 6 months

Who can lead the award? Teachers can lead the award. There are training courses available, but these are not compulsory. Schools have to complete a Proposal Form at least two-weeks before starting the award, outlining how each of the four challenges will be met in the time-scale.

What evidence is needed to achieve the award? Teachers can use the Review Form ([PDF 3](#)) for each participant to ensure all criteria are met - or a Record Book ([PDF 2](#)) can be completed. However, these do not have to be externally verified by the John Muir Trust - as long as the award leader (teacher) is satisfied the criteria have been met, they can apply for the Award Certificate. Certificates are then sent to the school for presentation.



[PDF 2 - John Muir Award Record Book](#)

John Muir Award Four Challenge Review			
Name of individual/group: _____			
To gain a John Muir Award everyone meets Four Challenges – Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share This Four Challenge Review can help Award participants review and demonstrate that they have understood and successfully met the Award Challenges. Capture informally through group and individual discussion. Use pictures and drawings, write on flip chart, or a combination of these. Or just have a chat.			
Discover a wild place What wild places have you discovered? What did you like or not like about the wild places you visited? What's special about them?			Explore its wildness What have you done to get to know wild places? How have you experienced them? What things have you found out?
Conserve take Responsibility How have you taken responsibility? What have you done to make a difference and put something back for wild places?			Share your experiences Who have you shared with? How have you shared your experiences of wild places? What things have you thought about? How do wild places make you feel?

[PDF 3 - John Muir Award Review form](#)



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union 