



Access All Areas

Context:

A key strength of the Mosaic Young Champions Programme is the range of young people who have volunteered their time to champion National Parks. The programme has particularly benefited from having a high proportion of young people with disabilities who have signed up to be Young Champions.

What went well

- Targeting key infrastructure organisations working with young people with disabilities to promote the programme.
- Tasters for young people and support workers demonstrating the opportunities offered by National Parks.
- Mosaic staff working alongside young people and support workers to ensure programme activities were accessible.
- Using 'Total Communication' techniques (Makaton and Rebus).
- Maximising the opportunities offered by specialist providers in terms of accessible transport (www.ExploreMoor.co.uk) and accommodation (www.calvert-trust.org.uk).
- Having the knowledge that additional funds were available to ensure an accessible programme.

Learning Points for next time

- It is important to have a long lead-in time before activities to build confidence and trust.
- A greater flexibility in the programme is required to ensure that all young people 'dip in and out' as appropriate.
- A greater awareness is needed of the lack of capacity of support workers to take advantage of programmes such as Mosaic.

Outcomes and outputs

- Young people achieving new accredited and/or certificated skills and confidences.
- Over 20 youth and community workers from disability organisations accessing the National Parks through Taster days.
- Young people enjoying the opportunities offered by National Parks through overnight experiences, many for the first time.
- National Park Authorities, and other partners, working alongside young people with disabilities and developing new ways of working.



Craig, Mosaic Young Champion, and Andrea Davis, Exmoor National Park Authority Member, share in the Mosaic Young Champions Weekend (Calvert Trust, Exmoor)

"I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the Mosaic Young Champions. The Mosaic Weekend provides an excellent opportunity for young people to develop new skills and try new activities. A big thank you to the Young Champions for all their efforts."

(Andrea Davis, Member, Exmoor National Park Authority)

(For further details and resources please visit www.mosaicnationalparks.org or contact: The Mosaic Project, Campaign for National Parks, 6-7 Barnard Mews, London, SW11 1QU, Tel 020 7924 4077, Fax 020 7924 5761. © Mosaic 2011)