



The Mosaic Young Champions Executive Summary *'Inspire, Champion, Challenge'*



This summary outlines the Mosaic Young Champion Programme and its success in using National Parks to develop youth leadership. The Mosaic Young Champion Programme has three key objectives:

- 1. To enable young people (16–25 year olds) to develop as leaders by championing National Parks to others.**
- 2. To empower and equip youth workers to maximise the unique opportunities for youth leadership development offered by National Parks.**

- 3. To facilitate profound organisational change for increased youth leadership within National Park Authorities.**

The programme is managed by the Campaign for National Parks. Key to its delivery is the youth-led Steering Group made up of the Youth Hostels Association, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities, youth infrastructure bodies and the Young Champions themselves.

"Mosaic has really helped me to develop as a leader. It is a brilliant opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends."
(Caz, Mosaic Young Champion)



1. ENABLING YOUNG CHAMPIONS

Champion recruitment: The Mosaic Young Champion Programme targets young people who live in deprived urban areas in south west England and who face challenges such as unemployment or disability. They are recruited and supported to become “Young Champions” who promote the National Parks to others.

Mosaic “tasters” have proven to be a crucial stepping stone in enabling young people to volunteer with Mosaic and become Young Champions.

The Champion role: A Mosaic Young Champion is someone who is:

- *willing to find out about and explore their local National Park;*
- *able to promote National Parks to a youth audience;*
- *keen to work with Mosaic in helping the National Parks be more youth friendly.*

After initial research in 2009 and piloting in 2010, the Mosaic Young Champions Programme has recruited and supported over 60 Young Champions.

Champion training: Young Champions undergo a bespoke training and support programme. The Mosaic Champion Training Weekends are key to that. The inspirational weekends, hosted by the Youth Hostels Association, enable young people to develop their leadership skills.



Mosaic Champion Weekend (Dartmoor)

The weekends are complemented by accredited and certificated training in topics such as First Aid and fundraising.

Youth-Led Projects. The Mosaic Young Champion Programme enables young people to move their project ideas from initiation to piloting, delivery and evaluation.



X Fest 2010 attracted 75 young people to a 48 hour volunteering Exmoor Festival. Chris and Ash made it happen!

Projects typically fall under three headings:

“Visiting & experiencing” – helping young people to experience all that National Parks have to offer by organising trips and visits.

“Promoting” – raising young people’s awareness of the benefits that National Parks have to offer, by developing promotional DVDs, peer networks and press releases.

“Changing” – influencing the management of National Parks and their provision of services.

The commitment of the young people has led to some extraordinary results. In six months a sample of eighteen Young Champions achieved the following:

Key Achievements

200 + days volunteered

£10,000 equivalent of 'in-kind' volunteer time contributed

20 events arranged by Young Champions for other young people

100+ peers supported to spend over 1,000 hours in the National Parks

**6 services 'youth proofed'
76 Awards achieved**

100% of Young People developing new skills, confidences and entering employment

2. EMPOWERING YOUTH WORKERS

Key to the success of Mosaic is working closely with youth infrastructure bodies and promoting the National Parks' unique environment for youth leadership.

Mosaic has developed a range of carefully designed support mechanisms and resources to help youth workers. Those include transport guides, bespoke training, Mosaic tasters and accreditation advice.

To date Mosaic has trained over 50 youth and community workers.



Navigation Training, Okehampton YHA

3. PROFOUND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Meeting the needs of young people is core to the purposes of National Park Authorities.

However, although 86% of teenagers would prefer to be outside accessing wild open spaces such as National Parks, only a fraction of young people actually have that opportunity.¹

The Mosaic partners have recognised the need to change profoundly the way their organisations welcome and work with young people.



Mosaic Young Champions share their thoughts with the Chair of Natural England, Poul Christensen, and senior figures from Exmoor National Park Authority and the National Trust

Young Champions work actively with National Park Authorities to develop, plan and shape future services.

Key processes for doing that include youth proofing policies and publications, mystery shopping of visitor services, youth led staff training and focus groups.

"As a youth worker I have developed in-depth skills and now feel confident to make the previously 'hidden' National Parks accessible to the young people I work with."

(Suaad, Youth Worker)

¹ As documented in Mosaic Young Champions Report 2010

KEY MESSAGES FROM MOSAIC

1. **Youth Leadership Works.** Young people are extremely effective in 'making things happen'. They have made the Mosaic Young Champion Programme what it is.
2. **Skills and Personal development.** National Parks provide a challenging and unique environment for personal development.
3. **Youth Worker Champions.** Motivated and enthusiastic youth workers are key to the success of introducing young people to National Parks and the Youth Hostels Association. Training and resources are essential for enabling workers.
4. **Cohesion.** There was huge added value in bringing young people from different backgrounds and cultures together in a team setting.
5. **A Strategic Intervention.** Mosaic benefits from a strategic commitment from its partners. This is important for long term change.
6. **The National Park Movement.** It is essential that all young people are given the opportunity to understand and enjoy the special qualities of National Parks, so that the Parks have a future.

"The enthusiasm and hard work of the Mosaic Young Champions is inspirational; they are now an important part of the National Parks movement."

(Helen Jackson, Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks)



Mosaic Young Champions interview Ben Fogle. Ben is the President of the Campaign for National Parks and a strong advocate of the Mosaic Young Champions

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

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Front page: Gorge scrambling, Young Champion Weekend, Dartmoor)