

Manchester Outdoor Education Trust: Girls and Young Women's Adventure Festival Roadshow



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

- Delivering activities which have increased activity levels and/or engaged previously inactive young people from LSEGs.
- Delivering activities which have specifically focused on engaging and increasing activity levels amongst young females from LSEGs.
- Delivering activities which have specifically focused on enhancing the mental health and well-being of young people from LSEGs.

Funded through the Together Fund, the Manchester Outdoor Education Trust managed and distributed the funding to four delivery partners, providing a variety of activities for young women and girls across Greater Manchester. These took place in the summer of 2023, from June to August.

StreetGames provided this funding, as it was evident that young women and girls across Greater Manchester have several barriers in place which reduce the opportunities for them to experience these diverse outdoor activities, for example, kayaking and bushcraft. The aim of this funding and the work of the groups was to break down some of these barriers and allow young women and girls to experience them. It would be fantastic if some of the participants were to continue these activities. However, the experience in itself, building confidence, getting them outside, working within a team, and the physical and mental benefits were far more important.


SESSIONS		Contact THE DELIVERER below for access information, details of what to bring, and to book your session.		
	What	Where	When	Max. Group size
Nacro Greater Manchester Outdoor Learning	ADVENTURE & BUSHCRAFT FESTIVAL Activities will include a mix of orienteering, camp cooking, foraging, bushcraft, soft archery, flag football and cycling.	Wythenshawe Park Wythenshawe Road, Manchester, M23 0AB	Thurs 15th June 6pm - 8pm Thurs 13th July 6pm - 8pm Thurs 10th Aug 6pm - 8pm	3 groups of 15 per session Age 13-17
Contact	Barth Craigen • Email: outdoor@nacro.org.uk • Mobile: 07952 257879 • Website: instagram.com/nacrooutdoorlearning			
Debdale Outdoor Centre	WATER SPORTS ADVENTURE FESTIVAL Dragon boating, dinghy sailing, windsurf, paddle board, water play, making beads and having fun!	Debdale Outdoor Centre 1073 Hyde Rd, Crompton, Manchester, M18 7LJ	Sat June 24th 10am - 3pm Mon July 24th 2pm - 4pm Thurs Aug 10th 2pm - 4pm Sat Aug 19th 10am - 3pm	20 maximum per group Age 11+
Contact	Martin Ware • Email: martin.ware@dcj.org • Mobile: 01824 555899 • Website: www.dcj.org.uk/debdale			
Water Adventure Centre (WAC)	WATER SPORTS ADVENTURE FESTIVAL Accessible craft for kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, water play, making beads and having fun!	Water Adventure Centre The Old Southouse, Off Macdonald Road, Droylson, Manchester, M43 6ES	Mon afternoons, August 7th, 14th and 21st 2pm - 4pm	15 young women per group Age 11 - 16
Contact	Pauline Venus • Email: info@wateradventurecentre.org.uk • Mobile: 07956 953727 • Website: wateradventurecentre.org.uk			
Simply Cycling	CYCLING FESTIVAL Join us to cycle on a range of scenic routes around the park. We have single rider bikes, 2 and 3 water bikes and can cater for a range of disabilities as well as able bodied riders. No experience needed, all	Wythenshawe Park Athletics Track, M23 0AB Longford Park Trafford Athletics Stadium, M21 9TA Bogart Hole Clough Athletics Track, M9 1QH	Thurs 1st June 9am - 12noon Fri 2nd June 9am - 12noon Fri 2nd Aug 11noon - 3pm	individuals or groups of up to 30 All ages
Contact	Sue Blaylock • Email: sueblaylock2708@bt.com • Mobile: 07753 428937 • Website: simplycycling.org			

The funding paid for the organisations to deliver a number of sessions, which were promoted widely throughout the StreetGames network in addition to the wider Greater Manchester youth and school network. NACRO delivered a different activity on each of the evenings, so one week was

As a result of the summer series, NACRO planned and delivered monthly sessions all through the autumn as they had a core group of female volunteer leaders who became more active through the summer festival, and there was also lots of interest from the young women they worked with. They used the equipment already purchased to run the autumn sessions; therefore, this funding has created a sustainable offer, which is fantastic.

At the Water Adventure Centre, their session with Manchester Young Lives led to a conversation afterwards with a cup of tea, and this progressed into talking to the young women about how they have been encouraged to become active in their youth club settings and the importance of having young women only spaces to build their confidence and self-esteem. The conclusion was that they all wanted to do more, so hopefully, work can continue with them to plan more for the future!

Regarding the funding, the feedback was that it works well, but it would have been more beneficial if they could use it for more long-term projects, as they had just got momentum up within the 3-4 month delivery and now want to deliver more. In the future they may also use more of the funding to support training the volunteers so that they could become more sustainable long term. More opportunities to work all year round, plus some residential opportunities in the autumn and winter, would also be welcomed, in addition to more funding readily available to support these groups from highly deprived areas in Manchester.



“The adventure fest was an amazing experience because allowed us to gain skills and build confidence in a friendly and fun environment”.

“I really enjoy going to the Young Women’s Adventure Fest sessions! I really enjoyed creating fires and chopping wood. I would love to do more sessions in the future”.

“Brilliant. I liked the way they teach you to do it first, they don’t just leave you to it. They encourage you and push you. They were dead smiley.”

“I liked how we did different activities, like the crocodile thing, and there was a massive board for like 15 people. I thought it was great. I felt more confident by the end of the day, we were just jumping in the water.”

ANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE/NEXT STEPS:

bushcraft, the next orienteering and then cycling. Debdale Outdoor Centre delivered some dragon boating, the Water Adventure Centre kayaking, and Simply Cycling was accessible cycling. Apart from the weather cancelling a couple of the Water Adventure Centre sessions, everything else went to plan and was well attended, which was fantastic. Overall, there were 231 different participants accessing the activities, with a mix of ages and ethnicities.

One of the key things that helped to make this project successful was the enthusiasm, adaptability and understanding from all the partners. In the initial meeting, the idea of a weekend festival was proposed, but the organisations were creative, throwing in suggestions, and as a result, this full programme spanning over a few months was created. This approach was certainly more aligned with the needs of the young people (and organisations taking them), and it allowed the sessions to be more accessible. This also meant that the delivery organisations weren’t stretched and could deliver the activities when they had the staffing and capacity to ensure that the sessions met a high, engaging standard.