

Why not get more involved in the great outdoors?!

Getting involved is a great way to boost your CV and uni applications!
And it's also a great way to complete the volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh's award!

Have you been inspired to get involved in practical conservation projects and days? Or just to simply volunteer in the great outdoors, there are many organisations you can get working with. Why not try some of the following:

The Wildlife Trusts www.wildlifetrusts.org



National Parks Authority www.nationalparks.gov.uk



The National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/ways-to-volunteer

The Conservation Volunteers www.tcv.org.uk

The Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk/england-volunteering



The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust www.wwt.org.uk/support

Community Service Volunteers www.csv.org.uk/volunteering



The Environment Agency www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/recruitment

Natural England www.gov.uk/volunteering-with-natural-england-how-to-get-involved

Local councils are also a good place to try, often they have country parks where you can get involved and volunteer with the rangers.

Try these apps for recording and IDing; 'Record Wildlife', 'BirdTrack', the FSC apps and 'Leafsnap' for android and apple phones.

If it's more geography based activities that you're interested in, look out for student lectures by the Geographical Association, www.geography.org.uk. If you're headed to university to study geography, look out for Geography Ambassador positions with the Royal Geographical Society, www.rgs.org. Why not also try looking on www.do-it.org who will tailor volunteering opportunities to your interests.

If you simply want to spend more time in the great outdoors, why not try some of these organisations!

Institute for Outdoor Learning www.outdoor-learning.org.

Student Conservation Association www.thesca.org

British Exploring Society www.britishexploring.org

The Geology Trusts

www.thegeologytrusts.org/pub

The Scout Association www.scouts.org.uk have groups all over the country and do lots of outdoor based activities including camping, walking and many more!

For tips on wildlife photography, try www.bbc.co.uk/nature/22115362

Good books for getting involved outdoors can include pocket guides. Good, and not too expensive ones include the RSPB Pocket Nature guides. These can also be a great way to help you learn species so you can get involved in local surveys and counts. The NHBS is a great place to get hold of lots of nature-based books.

If listening to a podcast or watching a documentary is more your way of keeping up to date with environmental 'going ons', why not try the following suggestions:

David Attenborough's TV documentary series.

Shared Planet and Farming Today podcasts from Radio 4.

Why not even ask for an environment related birthday or Christmas present?

Want to get out and about walking more? Why not ask for an OS 1:25,000 map of your area? Or try downloading the 'OS Mapfinder' app on your apple or android phone.

If the practical sampling has caught your eye, why not consider volunteering with charities like the following few and help them with activities such as species counts and their yearly surveys?

The RSPB www.rspb.org.uk



Bumblebee Conservation

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/get-involved/surveys



Butterfly Conservation www.butterfly-conservation.org

The BTO www.bto.org



Opal www.opalexplorenature.org

Also try looking for your local Naturalists Union.

Help record the timing of natural and phenological events with www.naturescalendar.org.uk

If volunteering isn't your thing, or you don't have much time, a good way to keep up to date with what's going on in the environment is to 'follow' well known naturalists on Twitter or other blog sites. A few suggestions are:
Chris Packham (@ChrisGPackham)
Bill Oddie (@BillOddie)
George Monbiot (@GeorgeMonbiot)
BBC Wildlife (@WildlifeMag)

What sort of job can I get in the outdoors?

GIS officer, teacher, surveyor, park ranger, zoo ranger, teacher, field studies tutor, environmental consultancy, town planner, conservation officer, mountain rescue.

These are just a few; there are plenty more out there!