

THE MARK SCOTT LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE AWARD

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award



Thank you for your support of young people undertaking the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award. These pages should answer your questions about what the young people need to achieve and how your organisation could help them.

What is the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award?

The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award is a personal development award for young people across the Central Belt of Scotland. It was set up after the sectarian murder of teenager Mark Scott, and over 2300 young people have gained the Award since 1998.

The Award involves a 5-day residential training course at an Outward Bound Trust centre, and up to 4 months of working to set up and deliver a 3-day community project.

Who runs the Award?

We are the Outward Bound Trust, the UK's oldest provider of high-quality outdoor learning. We have run the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award since its beginning, in partnership with the Mark Scott Foundation, who in 2013 handed over the whole Award to us to fundraise and run.

What are the aims of the Award?

The Award aims to increase community cohesion. The Award also aims for participants to:

- Become more confident individuals, and develop the skills for independent learning
- Develop teamwork and project management skills and an awareness of how to lead others
- Develop awareness of, and show greater respect for others from different backgrounds
- Develop a sense of social responsibility by delivering projects that benefit their local community and have a positive impact on their communities.

Our research shows that the Award gives young people self-confidence and vital life skills which support them in moving into further education or work; participation in the Award increases young people's feeling of responsibility towards their community and makes them more willing to volunteer their time to help others.

What support is available for participants?

Each group has a Project Coordinator who works for the Outward Bound Trust and mentors the group through the whole programme, attending their project development meetings and providing support as necessary.

How can my organisation support young people doing the Award?

Participants work together in groups to deliver a 3-day/21 hour project that benefits their community. Your organisation has been approached as a potential partner in this. The group of young people who wish to work with you will need you to help them to achieve their particular aims. The support they are asking of you will depend on what their particular project involves.

What expectations are there of participants?

Every community project group will develop a project based on the needs of their community and create aims and objectives based around these needs. This means that each Mark Scott Leadership for Life project is unique and will require different levels of input from community partners.

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There are standards each group is expected to meet and these are highlighted below:

- **The community project needs to be 3 days in duration.** This is the equivalent of 21 hours that can be delivered as the project requires. As many projects happen during school days it is important for each project to not exceed this time frame. If participants wish to remain engaged with your organisation after the project is finished, they need to make arrangements independently of the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award.
- **The group need to Plan, Deliver and Review their community project,** applying their learning to become more effective. Through feedback from Project Coordinators and community partners, the group can build on their learning and experience over the course of their engagement with you. This means there should be a progression of the quality of the community project as the group learn from their experience and from any feedback that you provide them with.
- **Planning a challenging community project.** The group should take ownership of their project and work in partnership with your agency. Participants are not seeking simple volunteer opportunities as this does not fit with the aims of the award.
- **Project aims should be realistic for a 3 day project that is delivered before the middle of March.** You, as a community partner, will have a good idea of what is achievable, and so we welcome your input about project aims, plans and delivery schedules. If there is any element which you feel is unrealistic or warrants change please inform the group and their Project Coordinator. We would always prefer for an agency to "say NO" to an idea early on to enable the groups plans to be achievable.
- **Groups should communicate effectively with project agencies.** We expect groups to communicate directly with you, but please bear in mind that participants are still developing these skills and so may need some support and understanding. Please contact the Project Coordinator if, even after feedback, the group are not meeting your expectations.

Who is responsible for the young people while they work on their projects?

The Outward Bound Trust is responsible for the young people and their actions while they work on their projects. Any work done to buildings or structures becomes the responsibility of your agency once the project is completed – bear this in mind when agreeing with groups what they can do on your premises.

The Outward Bound Trust maintains oversight of all MSLfLA community projects. In most instances, a Project Coordinator will attend project delivery; however, if deemed appropriate and agreed in advance with you, a group might work without this direct supervision and so benefit from the increased responsibility and independent learning. These expectations will be set as the project evolves.

What paperwork requirements are there?

Essentially there is no paperwork for your agency to do, unless specific risk assessments need to be made that are not covered by The Outward Bound Trust's standard documents. Participants may request written feedback to help their personal development, and our evaluation team will be in touch after the project is complete – your assistance with this feedback is very much appreciated and will really benefit the future impact of our programme.