

New Forest Youth Board

Member information pack

Introduction

The New Forest National Park Authority is looking for young adults aged 18 to 30 to join the New Forest Youth Board. Board members play a key role in shaping and influencing the care and future planning of the New Forest, working with a variety of partner organisations across the National Park. It is an exciting opportunity to help promote youth voice across the New Forest and make a difference to its future.

Why is having a Youth Board important for the New Forest?

Young people are the future custodians of the New Forest, they are the generation that will be most impacted by decisions that are made today. The New Forest National Park Authority and partner organisations are committed to involving them and listening to their views on key New Forest issues. We want to know your views on a range of issues impacting the New Forest including, commoning, conservation, wildlife, heritage, access, communications, climate change, planning, education and the rural economy.

What is the New Forest Youth Board?

The New Forest Youth Board promotes the work of youth voice across the New Forest. It helps advise and inform New Forest organisations on issues impacting the future of the National Park.

The New Forest Youth Board is a key element within the Youth for Climate and Nature (YouCAN) project, [more information about the project can be found here.](#)

The Board meets every other month to discuss issues and work on projects brought to it by a partner organisation or raised by a board member. Meetings are a mixture of in person and online.

Why should I apply to be a Youth Board member?

As a Board member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet and work with like-minded people
- Be a voice for young people across the New Forest on climate and nature
- Make a difference to the future of the New Forest
- Network with professionals working for a variety of New Forest organisations
- Gain valuable life skills and green leadership experience
- Enhance your CV and future employability

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Who are we looking for?

We are looking for young adults who are passionate about the New Forest and have a strong connection to the area and its natural environment.

We are looking to create a board from a range of backgrounds, interest, lived experience and connection to the New Forest. We encourage applications from all interested, eligible young adults.

What skills and attributes do New Forest Youth Board members need?

We are looking for young adults who are:

- Connected to the New Forest, its nature and heritage
- Passionate about sustainability and addressing climate change
- Willing to share your thoughts and opinions within a small group
- Able to work in a team environment and respect other people's opinions
- Able to understand and share other people's opinions as well as your own
- Openminded and willing to learn

You don't need to know everything about the New Forest, the Board members as a group will provide a range of knowledge, experience, and skills. You will also be supported by specialists where appropriate.

You don't need to live within the National Park, we encourage applications from young adults living both in and around the New Forest area, there are no geographical restrictions. As long as you are able to attend meetings, we want to hear from you (reasonable expenses will be reimbursed).

New Forest Youth Board members will:

- Attend New Forest Youth Board meetings, and other meetings as agreed
- Share and discuss thoughts and opinions on matters raised to the Board
- Identify and work on projects for the benefit of climate, nature and communities in the New Forest area
- Work with other young people and represent their opinions and views to the Board and other groups
- Work with a range of New Forest organisations to represent youth voice
- Represent the Board at a range of events, which could include youth, national park or conservation-based events agreed by the Board
- Contribute to shaping the structure and work of the Board

You will need to commit approximately three hours a month to the New Forest Youth Board. If you choose to take on additional projects or opportunities, it may lead to an increase in time commitment. Meetings will be held both online and in person, more information can be found below.

All reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed to Youth Board members. Additional support to enable engagement with the youth board is available through the YouCAN accessibility fund. For more information, please contact education@newforestnpa.gov.uk

What support will New Forest Youth Board members get?

Board members will be supported by individuals working within the New Forest National Park Authority Education and Youth Team. Any questions or queries about the Board should be sent to the Youth Development Officer at education@newforestnpa.gov.uk

We will:

- Support you to actively participate in the New Forest Youth Board meetings and associated work
- Identify and arrange additional specialist support and expertise as required by opportunities presented to the board
- Support you both within and between board meetings to help you get the most out of the role
- Identify development opportunities for board members to progress their skills and/or knowledge connected to the work of the board
- Provide support at events attended by board members as required

How to apply

If you are interested in becoming a Board member, please send us your expression of interest before **1 September 2024**

Within your expression of interest, please make sure that you include your **name, age and contact details** so that we know who you are and can get in touch. We would like you to address the following three questions:

- How would you describe your connection to the New Forest?
- Why would you like to be on the New Forest Youth Board?
- What qualities and special interests would you bring to the role?

When putting your expression of interest together, remember the skills and attributes discussed above as we will use these when shortlisting candidates for the Board. Your expression of interest can be submitted in a variety of formats, including written, videos and voice recordings.

Once completed, your expression of interest should be uploaded via the link below. Please name the file with your **full name** and enter your **email address** into the comments section.

[Submit your expression of Interest here](#)

Data monitoring

Once you have submitted your expression of interest, you will then need to complete our equal opportunities survey.

We are committed to Equal Opportunities in our work, this information will not be seen by the person who decides on the shortlist. Any information given will be treated in the strictest confidence.

[Equal opportunities survey](#)

Want to know more or have some questions?

If you would like to find out a bit more about the New Forest Youth Board or have any questions, see the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Youth Board webpage. If you can't find an answer there, please contact Claire, Helen or Katie on education@newforestnpa.gov.uk and we can answer any individual questions.

Recruitment timeline

Applications close: 1 September 2024

To arrange an informal discussion about your application contact education@newforestnpa.gov.uk prior to the closing date.

Launch weekend: 14 - 15 September at the Countryside Education Trust, Beaulieu

What happens next?

Once we have received all the expressions of interest, we will shortlist the information provided based on the skills and attributes listed earlier in the document. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to both a group session, and an individual online discussion.

We understand that everyone is different and not everyone is an extrovert. The combination of a group and individual session will hopefully allow everyone to express themselves in a way they feel comfortable with.

The group session will provide the opportunity to work as a group to take on a challenge, and the individual discussion will allow us to get to know you a little better in a quieter environment.

Once we have met with everyone, we will make our final appointments to the youth board.

How we will use your information

We need to collect, process and keep your personal information to enable us to facilitate the selection process. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018, during the selection process your personal information is stored securely and access to this information is limited to only those involved in the selection process. If your application is unsuccessful your information will be deleted within 6 months, in accordance with our retention schedule, however if you are offered and accept a role with the NPA your information will be transferred to and held for the duration of your role. Should you wish to find out more about your information rights and how we use your information please contact the Information and Data Protection Officer at dpo@newforestnpa.gov.uk. More information is available in our privacy policy and information policy on our website at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/privacyandcookies