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## **NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE AND THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

*First partnership formed to test approaches through the pioneering  
NCS Innovation Programme*

National Citizen Service (NCS) and The Scout Association have today (Friday 21st July) announced a new three year partnership which will bring together two of the biggest youth organisations in the UK so they can support more young people and have an even greater impact. Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, will also join the newly formed cross party, cross sector NCS Patrons board, which is chaired by David Cameron.

Bear Grylls, new NCS Patron and Chief Scout explained:  
*"NCS and the Scout Movement are committed to giving young people adventure, challenge, and skills for life, ensuring they have the very best chance of getting ahead in a fiercely competitive world."*

*As Chief Scout, I am proud to recognise this exciting new partnership with NCS by becoming an NCS Patron. Together, we will help prepare more young people for the adventure of life."*

The partnership will allow the two organisations to work together to achieve their shared ambition to help more young people from all backgrounds to come together, prepare for the future, and develop crucial life skills. The partnership will:

- Open up a new opportunity for The Scout Association to deliver innovative NCS programmes, enhancing the impact and quality of the Explorer Scout and Young Leader experience by integrating the NCS experience within Scouting. This will support the growth of both organisations and offer new opportunities for social mixing.
- Offer unique social action and personal development opportunities for NCS graduates to support: Explorer Scouts, Scouting Network, the Young Leaders Scheme and adult volunteering in Scouting. This will help extend the reach of NCS beyond its core programme and support sustainable growth for Scouting
- Offer new roles for NCS graduates to support the growth of Scouting in disadvantaged communities, increasing the reach to communities that stand to benefit most.
- Allow both organisations to test and learn new approaches that will improve outcomes for young people and deliver good value for money.

Michael Lynas, CEO of NCS commented:  
*"The partnership between National Citizen Service and The Scout Association is all about two great organisations coming together in the interests of our country's young people. This partnership means that young people from all backgrounds will benefit from NCS programmes delivered by the Scouting movement, and NCS graduates can in turn help Scouting to expand its work in some of our most disadvantaged communities."*

*The Scouts are a great part of our national life and we are proud to launch our new Innovation Programme with them - working together to offer more life changing experiences for young people from all backgrounds."*

Matt Hyde, Chief Executive of the Scout Association, added:

*"If the last few months has taught us anything, it is that this generation inherits a society with big and complex challenges. NCS and Scouting have a shared aspiration to help young people realise their potential, celebrate difference and develop the life skills to tackle those challenges head on."*

*Marrying the scale, reach and 110 years' of experience of Scouting with the resource and innovative delivery of NCS will mean we have an even greater impact on many more young people. We hope that NCS graduates will become the Scout volunteers of the future. With some 50,000 young people waiting to join Scouting due to a lack of leaders, there has never been a more pressing need."*

The partnership will be the first of many to test ideas through NCS' new Innovation Programme, which has been established to allow NCS Trust and partners to test new approaches to deliver social cohesion, social mobility and civic engagement through NCS.

The NCS Innovation Programme is open to expressions of interest from any organisation that can demonstrate their expertise and capability to deliver fresh ideas to help improve and expand the programme. This includes organisations that are existing NCS delivery partners, and other organisations that have not delivered NCS so far, like the Scouts.

The Innovation Programme Team is available to provide advice and guidance to any organisation interested in helping NCS to innovate; there will be two periods a year where formal expressions of interest can be made. Further details can be found on the 'Innovate with NCS' page at [www.ncsyet.co.uk](http://www.ncsyet.co.uk)

**End**

### **Media Contacts:**

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### **About NCS**

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity open to 15- 17 year olds across England. It is a unique two or three week full-time programme focused around fun and discovery, plus 30 hours committed to a community project that benefits both young people and society. On this government backed programme, participants build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and adventures, making new friends, and contributing to their community.

Government backing means that it costs just £50 or less to take part in NCS and bursaries are available on a case by case basis. Support is provided for young people with additional needs.

NCS represents great value for money for parents as participants spend up to two weeks away from home with all meals and activities covered. The first week is spent at an outward bound facility participating in activities such as abseiling, water rafting

and canoeing. The second week teens live away from home, typically at local university halls of residence, learning how to be self-sufficient, developing new skills and finding out more about the needs of their local community.

Taking place outside school/term time, teens can sign up for the part residential experience and participate in either the spring, summer or autumn programmes. In every programme they will experience four sections that focus on personal and social development including leadership, teamwork and communication skills. Not only do 16 and 17 year olds have the chance to give something back, but it also looks great on CVs and helps with job, college and university applications, building future aspirations. NCS is now recognised by UCAS and taking part is a sought after addition to any CV.

In 2013, NCS Trust, an independent social enterprise, was established to manage NCS and execute the ambitious expansion of the government backed programme. To find out more information about NCS or to sign up to NCS visit [NCSyes.co.uk](http://NCSyes.co.uk). Like us on [facebook.com/ncs](https://www.facebook.com/ncs), follow us on Twitter @ncs or subscribe to NCSYes channel on YouTube.

### **About Scouting**

- The Scout Association was founded on 1st August 1907.
- The Scout Association is the largest co-educational youth movement in the country. Recent figures have shown that membership has reached the 618,000 mark in the UK. However, the movement is in desperate need of more adult volunteers to ensure that more young people can join the adventure. National waiting lists for young people wanting to join Scouting stand at nearly 51,000.
- Adventure is at the core of Scouting, and the Association passionately believes in helping their members fulfil their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves.
- Over 200 activities are offered by Scouting around the UK, made possible by the efforts of more than 160,000 volunteer leaders. This has helped to make Scouting the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.
- One of the challenges that the Scout Movement faces is finding more volunteers to plug the current gap. At present there are nearly 51,000 young people on waiting lists across the UK.
- Adults working in Scouting contribute in excess of 364 million hours of voluntary work each year to their local communities.
- The number of volunteers working for Scouting is bigger than the combined workforces of the BBC (24,000) and McDonalds (67,000) put together.
- Worldwide Scouting has over 40 million members both male and female and operates in nearly every country in the world.