



Summer 2021

With Hanham Woods Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to be working with Hanham Woods Academy this year to deliver an unforgettable summer experience for students in Year 11! NCS is all about helping teenagers realise their potential by giving them a taste of independence and loading them up with new skills that set them up to achieve their future goals, whatever they may be. And this year, it's your teens turn!

The NCS experience offers young people, aged 16-17, a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful this year with 2 or 3 weeks of their summer break.

Our 3 week NCS will start with an epic adventure in the New Forest, in Hampshire. A week dedicated to being in the outdoors and taking part in lots of fun but challenging activities such as kayaking, ropes courses and an expedition. Young people will be camping and will have the chance to choose who they share a tent with and have plenty of time in the evenings to relax and get to know new friends.

The second week will be based locally and filled with activities to help develop lots of new skills and build on friendships. These activities will include exploring the world of work and enterprise, understanding and having the tools to use their voice to create change, finding out more about mental health and resilience, meeting different charities to find out more about the local area and lots more.

The last week of NCS will be about using the skills and knowledge gained to make a real difference in the community. In their teams, they will create a project to support a cause they care about. They'll decide who and how they want to help, whilst our staff will be on hand to support them. We've seen first-hand what an amazing feeling of accomplishment and increased confidence this brings. Last August, teenagers on NCS donated 200,000 hours of their time to help rebuild their communities after the first lockdown, showing what a difference young people can make when they work together towards a goal.

We are also offering a non-residential version this summer that is only 2 weeks long. The programme is very similar but without the first residential week, meaning that it will all take place locally. We will run some awesome team challenges during the first week to help teens get to know their team.

Your teen will hopefully have heard about NCS in school this week either virtually or in person by the NCS team, where they will be told or shown everything they can get out of the programme, and if they are interested we'll ask them to sign up online at [wearencs.com](https://www.wearencs.com).



If your teen does want to register their interest in taking part in NCS this summer, we will ask them to share your contact details. This is so that we can complete the administrative process required to get them signed up to a programme date. If they do let us know they're interested, we'll be in touch with you by email or phone to run through the steps we need to complete their booking.

A place on NCS is worth around £1500. However, thanks to government funding for the programme, we only ask for a contribution of **£50** to cover some basic costs.

We want to ensure that everyone can do NCS, and so if your teen is in, or has recently left care, is currently receiving free school meals, has an educational health care plan or is a registered young carer there are bursaries available if you need some help to cover the cost. Full bursary criteria is on the website, however you will have to ring the call centre to sign up via a bursary as this cannot be done through the website.

This summer, we've got a few start dates you can choose from:

- **5th July – 3 week programme**
- **19th July – 3 week programme**
- **26th July – 2 week programme**
- **9th August – 2 week programme**

Go to **wearencs.com** to sign up, or for more information, frequently asked questions can be found at wearencs.com/faqs. Alternatively, if you have any questions or don't think these dates will work with your summer plans, give us a call and we'll do our best to help you out: **0800 197 8010**.

Please be assured that we are working to government guidelines and advice in relation to Coronavirus and we will keep you updated with what we are doing. *If guidelines change and residential stays are not permitted, the 3 week NCS programme will have the residential aspect removed, and will follow the 2 week format, starting on the second week.* You will have the opportunity to meet the staff before your teen starts their experience, meaning you have the chance to ask any questions, and ease any concerns you may have.

We look forward to welcoming your teen on NCS this summer!

Warm wishes,
Sarah Williams
National Citizen Service Trust