

# Christmas Newsletter 2016



The mentoring scheme during 2016 has seen the group from last year finish on a high note by taking part in a week long activity and expedition trip to North Wales. For some it was their first ever visit to Wales and or the first time they had been out of London. We prepared them for a two-day expedition by doing team work activities and getting them to realise the link between effort and reward. We also focused on the importance of self-reliance and this came as a shock to a few who were used to their mothers taking care of them.



The expedition saw them climb the side of a mountain to find somewhere to camp for the night, erect tents and cook dinner for themselves. Our volunteer staff got to see the true nature of each young person in this environment. With no phone signal and surrounded by nature, they adjusted and began to enjoy each new experience. One boy saw a sheep blocking the footpath ahead and asked if it was a fluffy dog and was unsure if it was safe to keep walking!

The weather was supposed to snow overnight on the expedition and this was a brilliant experience as the group woke to find their tents half buried in the snow.



## MENTORING PAIRINGS 2016

We have worked with 18 young people in 2016 and managed to achieve a great deal. During weekly climbing sessions, the young people have really progressed over the year. The mentoring framework started with the befriending and focused on the sporting activity and throughout the year developed in to goal setting both in relation to the sport and in home and school life. There was scope to take part in other activities as the young people worked towards achieving the UK Youth Achievement Award (similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award)



In December 2016, we took a group away to Snowdonia and more information is on our twitter feed. See this on our website at [www.yesoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.yesoutdoors.co.uk)

## FUNDRAISING 2016

We have done two fundraising abseils; one for ourselves and one for BBC Children In Need to support them after all the support they have given us over the years. We plan to apply to them for funding in 2017 and ask that you consider supporting us over the coming year. We are currently working with 12 young people and hope to raise more money to allow us to work with more. We have a waiting list of young people and prospective mentees that would like to join in. Our running costs are low and our turnover for the year is less than £20K. Your donation would really help and be hugely appreciated.



Costs are as follows: Climbing wall fees £720, Insurance £1,100, Staff training £1,500, Admin costs £1500, Travel £600, Coordinator pay £8K, Equipment £3K (hoping to be self-sufficient, tents, stoves, sleeping bags, etc.). £3K rent, £1,200 tutoring sessions.

***From everyone at YES Outdoors, thank you again for supporting us and merry Christmas***