

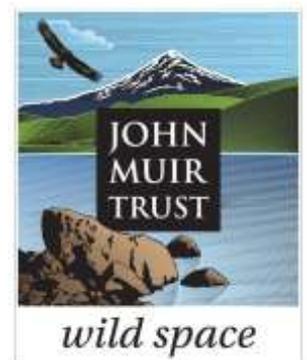


Scotland's Nature Festival (formerly Biodiversity Week) is organised by Scottish Natural Heritage and other strong partners in outdoor learning and play to highlight and celebrate Scotland's natural landscape, areas of wild beauty and city greenspaces. This year's theme is 'Love Life, Love Nature' and aims to inspire fun, adventurous and positive engagement with nature as a way to promote biodiversity, sustainability, enjoyment and well-being.

- ✚ **Scottish Natural Heritage** have plenty of ideas and resources for enjoying the outdoors with children and young people: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors>. Find out more about Scotland's Big 5 species, as well as lots of activities and events for families, children and young people on the SNH website: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/year-of-natural-scotland-2013>.
- ✚ Find out about Larbert High School English teacher **Lorna Swinney's** experience of leading young people in an exciting poetry day: <http://engageforeducation.org/2013/05/lorna-swinney-blog-where-theres-muck-theres-poetry>. 'How do you get 315 first year pupils out into the local environment, walk round a muddy nature reserve, gather inspiration for their own writing and back in time for their next period class? With the help of the Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature funding...'
- ✚ Visit the **Scottish Biodiversity Forum's** website for information about events, more ideas to get you started: <http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/area/naturefestival/about/theme>.
- ✚ The Conservation Volunteers have some great Citizen Science suggestions which you can begin during nature festival week and continue over the summer: <http://www2.tcv.org.uk/display/scotlandcounts>.
- ✚ A comprehensive new online resource is available, built around the professional learning weekend '[Inspiring Landscapes Inspiring Learning](#)' offered by the **Outdoor Learning with the National Parks** project.
- ✚ **Cairngorms National Park** celebrated its 10th birthday with the launch of Cairngorms Nature on 18th May. There are some excellent ranger led events happening in the park over the summer and information about them can be found here: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/about-us/publications/?publicationID=307>. Cairngorms Learning Zone, which contains resources for teachers, higher students and young people can be found here: <http://www.cairngormslearningzone.co.uk/>. Education resources, including education packs for Abernethy and Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserves can be found on the Education Scotland website: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/learn/learning-resources/education-resources/>. Examples of how schools have been developing their practice in outdoor learning can be found on the Clim-ATIC <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/sharingpractice/c/climaticmediaproject/introduction.asp> and Lost! <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/sharingpractice/l/lost/introduction.asp> pages.

Planning a visit with children and young people? Read the new guidance Going Out There: Scottish Framework for Safe Practice in Off-Site Visits found on the SAPOE website: <http://www.goingoutthere.co.uk>.

- ✚ **Forestry Commission Scotland** <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5pgr7> and <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/yearofnaturalscotland> as well as the **Forest Education Initiative Scotland** <http://www.foresteducation.org/news/scotland> all have relevant and exciting resources.
- ✚ **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park** is celebrating the Year of Natural Scotland. To help schools join in the celebrations, they have produced a guide of events and activities that show off the outstanding natural beauty the Park has to offer: http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/images/stories/Looking%20After/PDF/publication%20pdfs/Events_2013.pdf. An education pack, which provides practical advice on leading and managing learning in natural outdoor environments can be found here: <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/learning/overcoming-barriers-getting-into-your-park/menu-id-658.html>.
- ✚ Art, design and biodiversity have come together in a particularly innovative way through Anna Rossvoll's **Look, Capture, Create** partnership project with Scottish illustrator/designer Johanna Basford and Dundee Contemporary Arts. Visit the Glow group here: <http://bit.ly/1537oha> and sign up for some exciting online adventures in nature and artistry!
- ✚ The **Woodland Trust** have a great blog packed with ideas for the weekend <http://links.email.woodlandtrust.org.uk/servlet/MailView?ms=NDE0ODQ3NDES1&r=NDEyMzEzODk2NjMS1&j=MTg3NzM5Mjk3S0&mt=1&rt=0> as well as their marvellous **Visit Woods** site <http://visitwoods.org.uk/en/visit-woods/Pages/get-involved.aspx> and **Nature's Calendar** site <http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk>, not to mention the incredible **Nature Detectives'** Site <http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk>.
- ✚ Visit the **20:20 Vision Site** for exciting and imaginative media work using Scotland's natural heritage as a stimulus: <http://www.2020v.org>. A DVD highlighting the approach to conservation and ecosystem restoration taken by the project will be made available to all schools and centres in Scotland through the Education Scotland resources site.
- ✚ **John Muir Trust Wild Space** officially opened in Pitlochry at the end of April. The new Wild Space promises to bring a slice of the great outdoors indoors, providing an insight into the wild spaces of the Scottish Highlands and the work of the Trust. <http://www.jmt.org/wildspace.asp>
- ✚ Introducing children and young people to the **John Muir Award** provides a rich and vibrant context for exploration, discovery and conservation work in the outdoors <http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-home.asp>.
- ✚ Our friends at **MissionExplore** have been working with John Muir Trust to develop their own set of Muir Missions: <http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-mission-explore-john-muir.asp>. There are also many other exciting missions for young people (especially inspired by geography, sustainability, biodiversity and food) on the MissionExplore website: <http://www.missionexplore.net>.
- ✚ The Royal Scottish Geographical Society has an exciting Heritage Lottery project called 'Stories in the Land' running from April - December 2013. There are several elements to the initiative including a walk on an old drovers road from Dalwhinnie to Glen Nevis during the week of 15th July - called 'Bedrock - a journey through geological time'. There is also a wonderful storytelling project happening in June with details from the storyteller here: <http://www.clairehewitt.co.uk>.



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