

NATIONAL ACCESS FORUM

ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE ACCESS –SUMMARY OF EXISTING RESOURCE MATERIAL

Purpose

To take forward action following discussions at the 2018 NAF/LAF joint meeting and 16 May NAF meeting.

Action

Members are invited to discuss this paper with a view to fleshing out the conclusions in paragraph 12 and agreeing next steps.

Background

1. During the 2018 NAF/LAF meeting and the subsequent NAF meeting on 16 May a number of ideas emerged about engaging with young people to promote responsible access. These included the idea of working with young people to develop a young person's guides to SOAC, using appropriate media, language and images (AP 45/4). It was also agreed that it would be a useful first step to identify existing resource material. Accordingly (AP 45/5) Members were requested to identify current resources used to promote the Code to young people and send details to the Secretary - this information is summarised in this paper.

Existing resource material used for promoting the Code to young people

2. SNH produced education resources when the Code was first published. These comprised two Activity Guides for teachers and group leaders, one each for 8-12 and 12-14 year olds, with booklets, posters, story cards and games. However, there are no longer any copies available as hard copy. There is a link at <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/The-Act-and-the-Code/education-resources>, but the further link to the electronic documents is broken. However an electronic copy of the "Scottish Outdoor Access Code Activity Guide for 8-12 year olds" is available on request. Other relevant SNH resources on the SOAC website include the Countryside Calendar and a variety of leaflets eg Camping in Scotland: how to camp responsibly, Dog Owners: Jess the dog explains what the Scottish Outdoor Access Code means..., Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors (know the code before you go) etc all of which are applicable for families or could be adapted for younger people.

3. DMBinS has published *Do the Ride thing – a guide to responsible mountain biking in Scotland*, which includes messages from the Code. See http://www.dmbins.com/files/Do_the_Ride_Thing.pdf).

4. The John Muir Award Information Handbook includes a short section on the Code (see page 36 in 'Information Handbook' at www.johnmuiraward.org). There are also references to the Code in the Outdoor Access Resource Guide. See file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/Resource_Guide_Access_original.pdf).

In 2017, nearly 19,000 people aged under 25 achieved their John Muir Award in Scotland through roughly 800 Award Provider organisations; 25% of Award recipients come from disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2015, a monitoring exercise looking at activity carried out to meet the Conserve Challenge of the John Muir Award) found that the Code continues to be a key tool to help introduce outdoor rights and responsibilities in Scotland.

5. The Mountaineering Scotland website has information on responsible access and climbing.

(see <http://www.climbscotland.net/where-to-go/get-outdoors> and <https://www.mountaineering.scot/activities/outdoor-climbing/ethics>).

The Code is also promoted in (e.g.) the *Boulder Scotland 3rd Edition Guide Book* and the National Indoor Bouldering Award Scheme (NIBAS) booklet. In addition, the Regional Development Officers, who work with young people and climbing skills, cover responsible access and climbing ethics verbally through the delivery of outdoor sessions.

6. British Horse Society. The Pony Club has a Countryside access badge which includes a need “to understand simple countryside access law in your country” – the syllabus refers to the Code (see http://www.pcuk.org/index.php/tests_and_achievements/achievement_badges/equine_achievement_badges). In addition, the Pony Club made the film that was shown at the NAF/LAF meeting (see <https://vimeo.com/260221375>). The BHS is also working on new challenge awards which tick this box.

7. As explained at the NAF/LAF meeting, DoE uses a variety of games and other resources to promote the Code messages to around 20,000 young people per annum. See table of resources below. Another response gave an example of rangers working with schools on DofE expedition planning, noting that the students often have limited knowledge of Code beforehand and “enjoy acting out irresponsible behaviour scenarios”. The key point from DofE is that there are not really any widely available training resources aimed at their target age range of 14-25.

	short presentation included in schools pack	SOAC leaflets	SOAC education resources
Type of Resource (leaflet, booklet, quiz, game, video etc)	powerpoint, available as part of a larger training package	leaflets	
Age group target audience	14-25	all ages	8 to 14
Comments on effectiveness for a particular message	short, few key messages	brief and to the point, but not much detail.	DofE participants are older than the target age range for these resources. The countryside calendar is a more useful age appropriate resource.
Any other comments	designed for verbal reinforcement during expeditions. Only launched publically a year or so ago.		
link to the resource	copy attached. It is publically available but stored in drop-box, so really for those who know about it - not available to stumble across	https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/Access-management-guidance/camping-&know-the-code-leaflet	https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/The-Act-and-the-Code/education-resources

Additional information on approaches used to promote the Code to young people

8. BASC runs a number of courses and events where reference will be made to the provisions of SOAC. These include Young Shots Activity days and Bushcraft days. There is no written resource that supports these events.

9. Some local authority/National Park rangers use (e.g.) the SNH material to promote the Code, but now it is also considered to be rather dated. In addition, some rangers engage young people through community groups where anti-social behaviour is an issue: for example, where fires have caused damage rangers have worked with local youth workers and their clients to discuss responsible fire lighting. The aim is to help young people realise that their actions can impact on the rest of the community/wildlife/council resources etc. (One response stressed the need to present access rights and responsibilities in a way that is “informative and fun, without being preachy or pedantic”.) Rangers also educate people about the Code informally by talking to visitors and by putting up posters (e.g. about keeping dogs under control).

10. Historic Houses Scotland. Member properties engage with young people as part of their education and schools programmes. For many of them this will include ranger-led events and activities, which will feature information on the Code – generally aimed at Primary school age children and featuring quizzes, walks, games etc.

11. Canoe Scotland. In 2017 there was a session on the Code at a Club Members’ weekend; this was aimed primarily at club officials, but included some younger members. There is also teaching about the Code through independent outdoor centres, and there is a lot of 'teaching on the water', “with a focus on paddlers 'not being a nuisance' to anybody, anywhere”.

Conclusions and points for discussion

12. In general, it seems that:

- There appear to be a variety of resources for promoting the Code to young people, although some of it (including the SNH material) dates back to the launch of the Code and needs a refresh.
- Some of the resources are sensibly tailored to specific audiences (by both age group and activity) - given the length and relative complexity of the Code it is to pull out relevant messages instead of simply providing a web-link to the full Code.
- Youth organisations and similar (including scouts, Guides, John Muir Award, DoE, Pony Clubs) are very helpfully incorporating knowledge of the Code into their Awards.
- Rangers play an important role in promoting the Code and have adapted a lot of the material for their own use.
- There appears to scope for further sharing of ideas and resources to help fill the gaps, which perhaps include orienteers; family walking groups; the Ramblers 20-30s Young Walkers; course material for Outdoor Education of teachers and instructors (both pre-service and in-service).