

John Muir Award and Scottish Junior Forester Award



This resource is for leaders supporting groups/individuals working at later stage of primary education and beyond (up to age 14). It is designed to help make links between two nature- based Awards and includes information on the separate registration processes of each Award.

Why integrate Awards?

Each learner’s journey is different and considering award pathways, whether undertaken in parallel or progressively, offers young people:

- choice, variety and challenge
- the opportunity to realise skills, aptitudes and abilities in different contexts
- experience of a range of themes and additional outdoor activities that enriches learning
- recognition for their achievements through nationally recognised awards

The John Muir Award and Scottish Junior Forester Award, as two nature-based awards link well together and bring different focuses. For example, the John Muir Award offers a flexible framework and encourages connection, enjoyment and caring for wild places and advocating for issues around nature and climate. The Scottish Junior Forester Award offers a coherent and progressive woodland-based programme with a focus on forestry careers and employability skills. There are opportunities to do both Awards sequentially, to plan progressive experiences and link with other [nature-based Awards](#) (See **Table 1.** below for ideas on how the two Awards link).

Key to successful delivery is ensuring meaningful engagement with both awards, so the experience is built around adding value. Best practice includes introducing what’s involved in each award; setting expectations; ensuring participants see how their activities contribute towards achieving each award – how are they different and how do they complement each other; and creating space to review each award, ensuring participants can see how they’ve achieved each award.

What is the John Muir Award?

The [John Muir Award](#) is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places for people of all backgrounds – groups, families, individuals. It’s non-competitive, inclusive and accessible. Its open structure, around [Four Challenges](#) Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share – encourages participation in a range of activities that supports awareness, understanding and responsibility for wild places. **The Award is recommended for upper primary level and beyond.** There is an opportunity to plan for progressive experiences as the Award has three different levels, each with increasing time commitment, responsibility and ownership.

The John Muir Award is a recognised pathway to progression, a route for skills development outdoors that supports positive transitions to employment (**Developing Young Workforce**)¹. It ensures that there is emphasis on positive action for nature, giving participants hands-on experience of making a difference to wild places local or further afield (**Learning for Sustainability**) and helps people feel a connection to something bigger than themselves, contributing to health and wellbeing (see Award and **5 Ways to Wellbeing**).²

¹ [Employability and the John Muir Award](#)

² [Five Ways to Wellbeing](#)

How to register your John Muir Award

The John Muir Award is managed by the John Muir Trust.



- Plan your activities and fill in a [Proposal Form](#) (see Table below for ideas). Email it to us [here](mailto:info@johnmuiraward.org) (info@johnmuiraward.org) and keep a copy for yourself. We'll discuss this with you, agree it and register your interest. Send a copy of your Proposal Form at least 2 weeks before the start of your activity.
- Get outside and get active!
- Review your activity (e.g. Four Challenge Review) and send us a [Certificate Completion Form](#) as your activity is coming to an end. You'll be contacted to discuss and confirm this.
- Celebrate, and present your certificates.
- See www.johnmuiraward.org for information including: [John Muir Award - What's it all about?](#) Animation and [The John Muir Award and Curriculum for Excellence.](#)

What is the Scottish Junior Forester Award?

[The Scottish Junior Forester Award](#) gives children and young people an insight into a career in Forestry as well as the practical ability to assist in woodland management in their schools and local communities. It includes a programme of six sessions in which participants complete practical tasks and enhance their knowledge of woodlands and forestry. These include:

- Managing Risk
- Tree and Plant ID
- Woodland Habitats
- Habitat Creation
- Woodland Management
- Forestry Ambassadors.

See the Scottish Junior Forester Award Leaders Handbook for more information.

How to register your Scottish Junior Forester Award


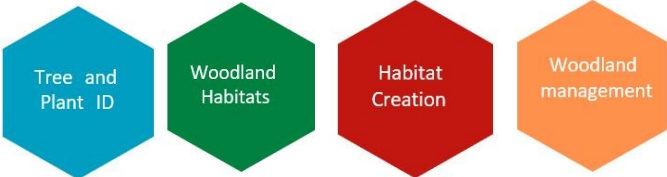
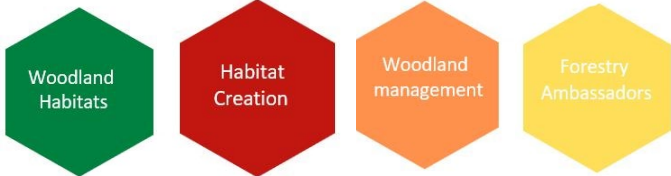
The Scottish Junior Forester Award is managed by the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) with support from Scottish Forestry. To register, sign up on the RFS website [here](#). Participants can record their learning in log books (optional resource). See **Table 1:** below if you have already registered your John Muir Award and are looking to see how to make links with a Scottish Junior Forester Award. Scottish Junior Forester Award **certificates** are available to download when you register or can be ordered along with pin badges through the [RFS shop](#). Order the number of certificates required and they will be sent on high quality card ready to be filled out.



Scottish Forestry is working in partnership with John Muir Trust to support woodland-based Awards such as the Scottish Junior Forester Award and John Muir Award.

Table 1: Examples of how the Scottish Junior Forester Award can be used to meet the Four Challenges of the John Muir Award.

You can use this as a start point for planning your John Muir Award (ref: Page 2 of the Proposal Form planning tool).

<p>Discover a wild place Where/what is your wild place (or places)? Carrying out a risk assessment and getting to know what is wild about your site. In assessing suitability of an area with trees and/or local woodland, consider its natural character, what is special? How it can be used to stimulate interest in forestry and care for trees? (Section 1: Managing Risk)</p> 	<p>Explore it Tell us what you'll do to increase your awareness and understanding. How will you experience, enjoy and find out more about your wild place(s)? Tree and plant identification. Tuning into the site's wildness using the senses. Photos, making maps or drawing pictures. Using creative writing to describe your wood (Section 2: Tree and Plant ID) Carrying out wildlife surveys and developing field work skills (Citizen Science) Building observation hides for wildlife (Sections 3 & 4: Woodland Habitats and Habitat Creation). Tree health surveys, knowing your site to plant trees in the right place (Section 5A Woodland Management).</p> 
<p>Conserve it How will you care for your wild place(s), take some personal responsibility, make a difference, put something back? Building homes for wildlife (hedgehog, bird or bat), dead hedging, litter picking and bulb planting (Section 3 & 4: Woodland Habitats and Habitat Creation). Practical tasks like tree planting and maintenance (Section 5A: Woodland Management) and creating clearings for wildlife, invasive species removal (Section 5B: Woodland Management). Considering environmental issues such as biodiversity loss and climate change, the value of wood and timber as a renewable resource. (Section 5A & B) Scottish Outdoor Access Code and reducing impacts. Campaigning and advocacy for your wild place – create your own campaign or join a national campaign see the Trust's Campaigns Padlet (Section 6: Forestry Ambassadors).</p> 	<p>Share your experiences Tell others about what you've done – experiences, achievements, feelings, what's been learned. Celebrate! Creativity such as taking photos, writing or art (Section 2: Tree and Plant ID). Writing newsletter articles, presenting at school assemblies, or hosting community events (Section 5A Woodland Management). Sharing ideas about caring for a wood both verbally and written (Section 5B: Woodland Management). Giving tours of the site to others, sharing a woodland management plan with others, standing up for Wild places through Social Action (Section 6: Forestry Ambassadors).</p> 