



IT ALL
STARTS AT
YES



In many societies, there is a rite of passage marking the moment that young people turn into adults, taking on board new rights and new responsibilities. They face a challenge to prove they are ready, and they rise to the challenge, standing taller and prouder as a result.

I want National Citizen Service to be that rite of passage for sixteen and seventeen year olds in this country, giving them a renewed sense of purpose, optimism and belonging. NCS brings young people from different backgrounds together in common purpose. It equips them with new skills and gives them the tools to make a difference. It helps them discover the depths of their talents and the scale of their potential. It teaches the meaning of social responsibility by asking them to serve their communities.

I am proud of what our great youth organisations have achieved in using their expertise to craft NCS into such a high quality programme. They have already supported tens of thousands of young people through the experience of a lifetime. One of the young people who took part wrote to me that NCS

“has changed my perspective of life – you can do anything if you have a supportive team around you.” I’ve seen the results first hand: young people brimming with confidence and a sense of the possible, and communities strengthened through innovative social action projects.

But you don’t need to take my word for it. Independent evaluation shows that NCS develops important skills, increases aspirations and wellbeing, mixes people from different backgrounds and increases community involvement. And it shows that meeting new friends and doing good feels good: over 90% who took part would recommend NCS to their friends.

By 2014, 90,000 people from all backgrounds will be able to benefit from NCS, and in time I want everyone to be able to take part. I believe NCS can be a transformative change for our young people and our country if we all get behind it: volunteers, schools, parents, charities and youth groups, businesses, local authorities, politicians and the media. If we come together to back our young people, we will all reap the rewards for years to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Cameron".

Rt Hon David Cameron MP Prime Minister



“Having been involved in NCS this year and literally worn the T-shirt abseiling and canoeing, I’m confident that every single graduate of the programme stands head and shoulders above many of their contemporaries because of their NCS experience. Npower values the skills learnt during NCS – teamwork, communication and project management – and looks for them when recruiting new staff. The NCS experience acts as a springboard for any young person’s career.”

Clare McDougall, Head of Community and Education, RWE npower

“We all want stronger communities, and confident and engaged young adults. That’s why I’m proud to support National Citizen Service. It brings young people from different backgrounds together and helps them to develop new skills. I’d encourage everyone to get involved.”

Rt Hon David Blunkett MP
Labour, Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough
Founder of Future for Youth foundation



THE NCS EXPERIENCE

One small step, one giant leap

An exciting week away from home in the great outdoors. Meet new people, build your confidence and try new challenges led by fully qualified staff.



Lessons that can't be learnt in class

Live independently in a local university halls of residence or youth hostel. Discover more about your community and learn vital new skills.

Fast forward your future

Be inspired by businesses and community groups. Design a project to help a local charity or cause of your choice.



Make your mark

Work with new friends to deliver a social action project in your community.

Graduate

Celebrate your team's achievements at a special graduation ceremony. Receive a certificate signed by the Prime Minister.



Continue the journey

Take part in further social action, use your new skills in study and work and enjoy exclusive NCS graduate opportunities.

“NCS is helpful for university applications, and skills such as communication, teamwork, confidence and motivation are all important for future prospects too. During NCS I was able to develop and improve these skills as it had a varied programme to suit all areas. I would definitely urge all young people to take part in NCS, as you can benefit from it in so many ways.”

Melissa Poole, NCS graduate, Lincoln

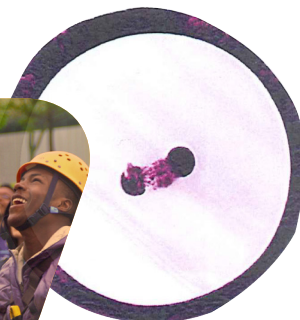
National Citizen Service (NCS) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that helps young people build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and meeting new friends.

Year 11 and 12 students and 16 and 17 year olds not in education can develop the tools and belief to unlock their potential and make a positive impact in their communities.

NCS gives thousands of young people across England the chance to:

- Meet other young people from all backgrounds and tackle outdoor challenges on an exciting residential week away from home.
- Join with local businesses and social leaders to learn new skills for work and life and discover more about their area.
- Make their mark by developing and delivering local volunteering projects that matter to them.

NCS takes place over several weeks (out of school time) in spring, summer or autumn. It features a short time away from home and a project in the local community. A focus on social mixing, regular guided reflection and social action projects led by young people makes NCS a unique and fulfilling experience.



“We are sure that the skills and experiences participants have gained will continue to benefit them in the future, whether in further education or in their working careers. The social action projects really show off what teenagers can contribute to their local communities, and demonstrate what young people can achieve when they work together.”

Julie Thorpe
Head of School and Youth programmes
The Co-operative College



"The best experience of my life - I'll never forget it. Before, I had been in trouble with the police but the two weeks of outdoor activities meant that I always had things to do and because of that I have been out of trouble all summer. I want to do an apprenticeship in painting and decorating and NCS has helped me with that. For my social action project, I had to decorate a new classroom. It has taught me a valuable skill. I've met people that I never thought I'd get on with, and I couldn't have done that without NCS."

Lewis Bowen
NCS graduate
Plymouth



NCS allows young people from different backgrounds who might not otherwise meet to come together. It supports a diverse cross-section of young people with a mix of ethnicities, religions, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds. Put simply, NCS brings people together and gives them the encouragement and support to grow their confidence, develop their skills and make new friends.

The only criteria for taking part in the NCS programme is that the participant is 16 or 17 and lives in England. NCS recruits all young people whether they are in a state-funded secondary school, a special school, a sixth form college, an independent school, a pupil referral unit, or if they are not in work, education, employment or training. NCS participants can be sporty, creative, academic, already active

in their community or not yet engaged. They can be confident or anxious, sure about themselves or worried about their futures. After several weeks of shared challenges and new experiences, NCS graduates have pride in their achievements, increased awareness of the importance they have in society and greater positivity towards others.



"This is such a fantastic opportunity for young people to begin engaging in their local communities and supporting local projects that will benefit everyone. This is without a doubt a life-enhancing experience for all those who take part. NCS really does have the power to demonstrate how we can all make a difference for the future."

Councillor Kay Twitchen OBE
Essex County Council Chairman

National Citizen Service allows young people to fast forward their futures at a vital transition point in their lives. NatCen's independent evaluation of NCS found*:



2:1

£2 returned for every £1 invested in value of social action and education benefits. Does not include other benefits that are harder to value such as well-being or reductions in anti-social behaviour.

NCS is open to everyone. It has achieved a good social mix, with participants from all backgrounds. It has engaged more young people from "harder to reach" groups than there are in the general population.



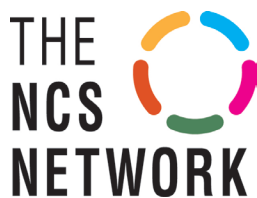
* All statistics are taken from an independent evaluation of 2011 pilot programmes by NatCen.

All 16 and 17 year olds in England can take one small step and one giant leap towards a future they can be proud of.

You can help them to become the best that they can be and discover all the possibilities that open up when you say yes.



www.ncsyes.co.uk



The Government has selected a series of charities, college consortia and Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) and private sector partnerships to deliver NCS across England.

They are working with over 100 youth and community organisations all over the country to offer 16 and 17 year olds from all backgrounds a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop important skills and make a difference in their communities.





IT ALL STARTS AT YES

Joining NCS is easy. Visit:



NCS



@NCS

#NCSYes

For more information contact your NCS local provider or contact us via the website:
www.ncsyas.co.uk

