

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Education Service

Learning Experiences

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Education Service invites you and your learners to participate in our Education Programme. Our curriculum linked programmes feature unique education courses for each age group. A variety of educational activities supports each course theme. Activities are designed to enhance learners understanding and awareness of the natural environment, sustainability and the protected landscape of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

We are licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (AALS) and all our Education Officers hold a PGCE or have been outdoor educators for over 10 years. Our staff have walk leading qualifications, first aid certificates, are CRB checked and minibus drivers hold Midas certificates. We conduct risk assessments on all our activities.



Our facilities:

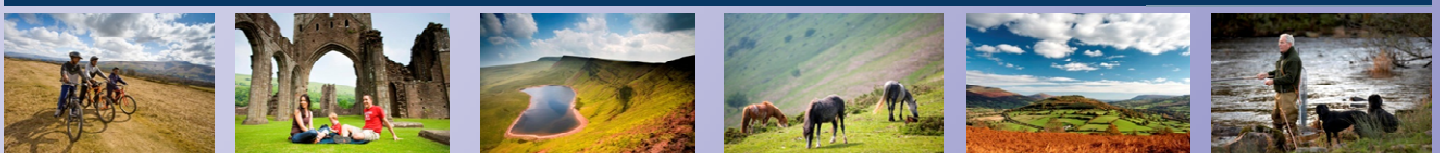
We deliver our learning experiences at 3 centres:

- ◆ **The National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre):** near Brecon, LD3 8ER
- ◆ **Craig-y-nos Country Park:** Penycae, Swansea Valley, SA9 1GL
- ◆ **YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre:** Talybont on Usk, LD3 7YS

We also deliver experiences starting from various locations within the National Park.

Come to the Brecon Beacons National Park for an outstanding education experience!

Contact: Linda Harley on: 01874 620463 or email linda.harley@breconbeacons.org



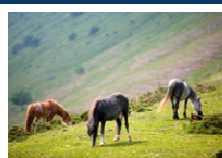
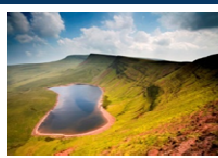
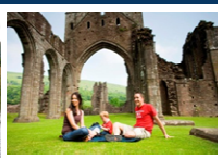
Venue Key: **CYNCP = Craig-y-nos Country Park,**
NPVC = National Park Visitor Centre,
DYW = YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre

Foundation and Key Stage 1


Experience Title	Course Description	Offered at (location within the National Park)	Length of session	Cost Per Pupil
Teddy Bears Picnic ™	Use hands-on activities to find out about the characteristics of living things and the importance of caring for the environment.	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6.00
Woodland Animals and their homes	Explore woodland homes and the mammals and minibeasts that live in them.	CYNCP	4 hours	£6.00
Sensational Stroll	Experience the richness and wonders of the natural world through all the senses and increase understanding of the earth and its life.	CYNCP NPVC	2 hours 1hr at NPVC	£3.00 £1.50
Art in the Park	A fun and creative way to create art work using natural materials.	CYNCP NPVC	2 hours	£3.00

Key Stage 2

Investigating minibeasts (biodiversity)	Learn about the variety of life in woodland and water.	CYNCP	4 hours	£6.00
Tall trees, habitats and food chains (biodiversity)	Learn about the trees in the Country Park and who makes their home in them.	CYNCP	4 hours	£6.00
Up and Under (landscapes and landforms)	Explore the main features and landforms that make up the stunning landscape around Craig-y-nos, the entrance to the National Park. Walk across these features and then investigate the underground limestone features of the Dan-yr-Ogof showcaves (open March to October)	CYNCP Available March—October	4 hours	£6.00
Map and Compass Skills	Develop map and compass skills and work as a team to overcome orienteering challenges around the Centre grounds.	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6.00



Geological Time Line and Rock Trail	Go back in time and find out how the four main rock types of the National Park were created. Investigate the appearance, texture, hardness and permeability of rocks. Learn about the importance of rocks in our everyday lives.	CYNCP	4 hours	£6.00
Survival Session	Team building exercises that introduces pupils to building shelters using natural materials.	CYNCP	2 hours	£3.00
Investigating Rivers	Discover the role of rivers in the water cycle, and observe features of river channels and landscapes. Visit the River Tawe near its source (transport required) to investigate river processes including speed of flow and then compare the river further downstream in the Country Park. Obtain additional data by visiting the Environmental Agency Flow Measuring Station in the Country Park Grounds.	CYNCP Available-March—October	4 hours	£6.00
River Trail	River trail through the Country Park to learn about erosion and deposition.	CYNCP	2 hours	£3.00
River Dipping	Discover and compare animals that live in ponds and streams. Identify them with keys and investigate how they have adapted to their environment. Then discover how they are linked together in a food chain.	CYNCP Available-March—October	2 hours	£3.00
Early Peoples' Day	An action-packed day studying the early settlers in the National Park, including a walk to an Iron Age Hill Fort. Enact a battle scene between the Romans and Celts, experience daily life as Celts, make pottery, brooches, spinning wool and grinding corn. Finally enjoy a feast to celebrate the fruits of your labour!	NPVC DYW	4 hours (2hrs in the classroom and 2 hour walk)	£6.50 (materials & taster food provided)
Waterfalls Walk to Sgwd Gwladus	A full day course involving a 2.5 mile walk along the beautiful Nedd Fechan river valley to Sgwd Gwladus waterfall. Learn how it was formed and why this area is so special. Evidence of the geology and industrial history of the area can be seen along the way.	Meet at Waterfalls Centre, Pontnedd-fechan	4 hours	£6.00
Victorian Christmas	A fun packed day learning about the lives of the Victorians. In teams, pupils will follow a Victorian trail to unlock the past and make Christmas decorations using natural materials.	CYNCP DYW Available November – December	4 hours	£6.00 £10 inc. Hot lunch (DyW only)



Twyn y Gaer	A walk to the site of an Iron Age hill fort, with superb views across the National Park and beyond. This walk can be themed according to your visit, focussing on the history of the area, how the National Park's mountains were formed, how the National Park is used by people for work and play (KS2+), the conflicts that arise in the National Park (KS3/4), or just a gentle introduction to the concept of a National Park (KS2/3/4/)	NPVC	4 hours	£6.00
Mountain and Moorland Walk	A longer day walk from the NPVC following footpaths, moorland and open hill, to the summit of Twyn Dylluan-Ddu for a packed lunch. Includes map reading and activities to learn about the land use and spectacular landscape of the National Park .	NPVC	4-6 hours	£6.00
Beacons Way Art Trail — East Funded by the Brecon Beacons Park Society	This walk traverses part of the Beacons Way Art Trail through forestry and across open moorland and combines artistic activities and stunning scenery to develop appreciation and understanding of the landscape. Assistance with transport costs may be available.	Meet at Grid ref: SO 266252	4-6 hours	Free until 31st March 2012
Beacons Way Art Trail — West Funded by the Brecon Beacons Park Society	Starting at Craig-y-nos Country Park — A full day to observe the industrial heritage which make up Penyllt village. On route the pupils will observe one of the Beacons Way Art Trail stones. The pupils can enjoy the spectacular views of the Black Mountain and the Upper Swansea valley and develop their appreciation and understanding of the landscape. Assistance with transport costs may be available.	CYNCP	4 hours	Free until 31st March 2012
Pen-y-Fan	Climb to the top of Southern Britain's highest mountain. This walk will only go ahead in appropriate conditions, a lower level walk may be offered in exchange. Additional charges apply for groups over 36 including adults. Time will depend on age, abilities and weather.	Meet at car park on A470 near Storey Arms at Pont-ar-Daf Grid ref: SO 011215 Available March— October		£10.00
Henllys Vale	Follow the River Twrch upstream to the Henllys Vale site where the geology lent itself to this important industrial past. Pupils will learn about how man utilised the natural resources of the Black Mountain, both mining for coal and quarrying limestone. Pupils will observe industrial buildings for example, limekilns and chimney stacks and interpret their previous use.	Cwmllyn-fell	4 hours	£6.00
Welcome to the National Park	A short guided walk which introduces the concept of a National Park, the habitat, wildlife and land uses of this special place. A short illustrated talk is also available to supplement the walk. Can be combined with other activities of your choice.	NPVC CYNCP DYW	2 hour	£3

Biodiversity Days

Investigate the importance of biodiversity in unique protected environments within the National Park. Through an enjoyable mixture of fieldwork and games, learn about the interdependence of organisms and factors which influence their survival.

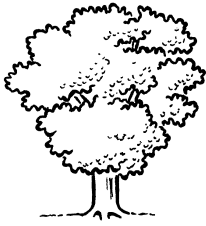
Biodiversity Days	Woodlands- a comparison of coniferous and deciduous woodland.	Sites near Abergavenny	4-5 hours	£6.00
Biodiversity Days	Wetlands- investigating the biodiversity of ponds and rivers. March—October	Sites near the NPVC and Brecon	4-5 hours	£6.00
Biodiversity Days	Uplands- a study of plant and animal communities in a sensitive environment March—October	Black Mountain near Brynamman	4-5 hours	£6.00
Biodiversity Days	Farmland- a visit to a farm to explore how the land is used to produce food whilst encouraging and conserving biodiversity.	Talybont-on-Usk	4-5 hours	£6.00
Biodiversity Days	Urban- a town trail exploring the wealth of wildlife which can be found if you know where to look.	Brecon	4-5 hours	£6.00

Key Stage 3 and Above

Sustainable Tourism Talk	An illustrated talk which examines how the National Park Authority tries to manage visitors sustainably in order to minimise conflicts with the environment. Optional extras e.g. guided walk and fieldwork activities additional £1..50 per hour	NPVC CYNCP DYW	1 hour	£1.50
Talybont - A Sustainable Village?	Sustainability case study - Investigate how a village within the National Park is striving to become more sustainable. Visit a community run hydro electricity project and through a fun practical activity, generate hydro electricity on a smaller scale.	Talybont-on-Usk Available March—October	4-5hrs	£6
Mynydd Illtyd – a threatened environment?	A case study investigating the biodiversity, visitor pressure, farming and the effects of climate change on this fragile and protected environment. Fieldwork and practical activities help students consider its importance and how it can be managed sustainably for the future.	Mynydd Illtyd near NPVC	4-5hrs	£6

Courses below are residential KS2. Please contact for details of availability and costs.

*These courses may also be available on a day visit basis.



Tor-y-Foel Trek*	A 4 mile/6 km walk to the top of Tor-y-Foel enjoying 360° views, learning about the geography of the National Park and how and why people have influenced the landscape.	DYW	4-6 hours
Mammals of the Wood	Learn about woodland mammals and their place in the food chain. Set humane traps for close observation and identification using keys.	DYW	3 hours (split over an evening and early morning session)
Survival Challenge*	Learn about safety in upland areas with fun team building activities.	DYW	2.5 hours
Creatures from the Deep.*	Discover and compare animals that live in ponds and streams. Identify them with keys and investigate how they have adapted to their environment. Then discover how they are linked together in a food chain.	DYW	2.5 hours Available March—October
Puzzles and Problems*	Children complete a trail in teams, solving problems and learning about sustainable development and the National Park along the way.	DYW	2.5 hours
Sensational Stroll*	A gentle half day walk along the Talybont Valley developing a relationship with the natural world through a series of fun activities involving the senses.	DYW	2.5 hours
Sustainability Hunt*	Learn about compasses and how they can help you find your way. Then test your orienteering skills and teamwork to find out about how sustainable people were in the past and how we compare today.	DYW	2.5 hours
Investigating rivers*	Discover how rivers move and shape the landscape. Try your hand at measuring the channel shape and stream flow. Compare a natural river channel with one that has been affected by people.	DYW	2.5 hours
Story Sticks	Use natural materials to re-tell your story of a journey in the Native American tradition and create a souvenir to take home.	DYW	1.5 hours (evening activity)

Early Peoples' Day*	An action-packed day studying the early settlers in the National Park, including a walk to an Iron Age Hill Fort. Enact a battle scene between the Romans and Celts, experience daily life as Celts, make pottery, brooches, spinning wool and grinding corn. Finally enjoy a feast to celebrate the fruits of your labour!	DYW	4-6 hours
Waterfalls Walk to Sgwd Gwladus	A full day course involving a 2.5 mile walk along the beautiful Nedd Fechan river valley to Sgwd Gwladus waterfall. Learn how it was formed and why this area is so special. Evidence of the geology and industrial history of the area can be seen along the way. Must have own transport.	Meet at Waterfalls Centre, Pontnedd-fechan	6-7 hours including 1.5 hours travel time
Farm Visit	A trip around a local environmentally aware farm with an introduction from the farmer. An opportunity to see at first hand where food comes from and how a Welsh hill farm is managed. Must have own transport.	DYW	2.5 hours



Outreach: Assemblies are available for delivery at your school.

Cost £30.00

- ◆ **National Park Assembly**
- ◆ **Fforest Fawr Geopark Assembly**

Other outreach activities that we agree to deliver will be charged at £75.00 per ½ day session.

If a visit to a Centre is booked at the same time for the same class, the charge will be reduced to £25.00

Other charging variations:

Other activities that are not listed above that we may agree to deliver are priced at £1.50 per pupil per hour

Minimum Charge:

There is a minimum charge of £30 per visit

For more information on the Brecon Beacons National Park and to read about all the latest news and events please visit our website at: www.breconbeacons.org



Useful information

Our staff have experience of delivering environmental activities to a wide range of participants from pre-school age through to adults. We aim to meet the needs of the School, the curriculum and the participants. We will have led similar visits to the one you have chosen, have covered all routes that will be used on the day and be familiar with all the equipment to be used.

All participants need to bring appropriate clothing and footwear for being outside for part or all of the day. This will include a waterproof jacket and walking boots and/or wellies, plus a warm jumper, thick socks, hat and gloves and, on hot days, a sun hat and sun screen. Groups knowingly going near water should consider bringing spare clothing and read the “water margins” guidance by visiting <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/visits/> and then clicking on “Group Safety at Water Margins”. Guidance for group leaders will be provided on making a booking.

How to make a booking:

Contact the Education Department or Visitor Centre with your request for an educational visit led by National Park staff. Once a date is confirmed for your visit a booking form will be sent to you along with ‘Notes for group leaders’.

The booking form will provide the details discussed over the telephone/via e-mail, and there are some sections that you will need to complete and return:

1. Booking form – completed and signed
2. Signed acceptance of leader responsibilities and listing of any special needs in group

Our educational visits are very popular therefore these 2 items need to be completed, signed and returned within 2 weeks of the letter being received.

Until we receive BOTH of these documents your booking is only provisional.

Payment:

Following your visit the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will send you an invoice. Please do not bring payment on the day.

Please book early to guarantee your visit

Education Department contact details:

Brecon Beacons National Park Education Department, Brecon , LD3 7HP Tel: 01874 620463

Site Contact Details:

Craig-y-nos Country Park (CYNCP), Pen-y-cae, Swansea Valley, SA9 1GL Tel: 01639 730395

National Park Visitor Centre (NPVC), Brecon, Powys, LD3 8ER Tel: 01874 623366

**YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre (DYW), Talybont-on -Usk, Brecon LD3 7YS
Tel: 01874 676677**



**We look forward to working with you
and your learners!**

