

Who: Aliya Khalil
Where: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Lives: Swansea

What has been your best experience in a National Park?



“Getting to know more about National Parks in Wales and meeting new people from different nationalities.

I enjoyed the trip we organised for 70 people. We went to Tenby and had a long walk and then stayed on the beach and did some activities for the children.

We were introducing people to the National Park for the first time – some had heard about it but had never been.

“You don’t have to have money or it doesn’t cost very much to go to a National Park”

People enjoyed it so much and we learnt a lot which we are building into the planning for the next trip we are organising in May.

We are planning to go to Broadhaven this time and are taking about the same number of people, as I have many people asking me to take them. This time we are going to organise more activities for children and young people because they were the majority of the group who came on the first trip. Hopefully that will help people to realise that National Parks aren’t just for walking but that there are activities they can do as families – and this will encourage them even more to go and visit.

Most of the people I work with are refugees and asylum seekers so money and the financial side is a big issue. I’ve been showing them that you don’t have to have money or it doesn’t cost very much to go to a National Park. Most of them don’t know about it, and that they can go with their children and friends.

That’s why I’m trying to organise trips so that in the future they can go and explore National Parks for themselves.”

In early 2014 we interviewed nine Community Champions with the Mosaic Project to find out more about the impact National Parks have had on them. Our Case Studies series documents these interviews. To find out more about Mosaic in Wales, please visit www.cnp.org.uk/mosaic

How has visiting National Parks has improved your health or attitude to life?

“Since getting involved with National Parks I think I am more aware of being healthy and feel that my confidence has improved.”

“National Parks give you a healthy lifestyle.”

What other green spaces have you visited since learning more about National Parks?

“I’ve not been to other green places, I just like being in National Parks.”

Would you say that you and your family have adopted a more healthy lifestyle since getting more involved in Mosaic and National Parks?



“It is not just about the trips – I want to encourage more people to know about National Parks so that they can visit National Parks themselves and enjoy doing healthy activities themselves. I want to encourage the people that I work with the make more links with the people in National Parks so they can go there for themselves.”

Why should people care about National Parks?

“For the beautiful, beautiful views. The beauty of nature is very important. All of us need to be outdoors sometimes as it is very important for our lives to be healthy. It is also important to know more about the place where you live – particularly if is a beautiful area like a National Park.”