

Mosaic Legacy Materials

Case Study 3: Cameron Crags, Young Champion, Northumberland National Park



"I got stuff back from the things I did, developed a pool of collaborators, and got work through the people I met."



Left: Cameron jumped at the opportunity to carry a camera for Google maps along the Pennine Way.

Cameron is from Newcastle and got involved with the Mosaic project through his friend Naafa, who was already a Champion. Naafa invited him on a bike ride in the Northumberland National Park, where he first met the Mosaic Project Officer. Despite feeling ill on the way up one of the highest hills in the area, he loved the day out. The highlight for him was an impromptu plunge in a river at the end of the day.

The bike ride turned into a whole series of bicycle expeditions. He went on an overnight mission from Newcastle to Kielder – passing from the city through the National Park. The same night he completed that he was inspired to try to cycle Coast to Coast, from Whitehaven in Cumbria home to Newcastle. He got involved in organising the ride; helping raise money to

buy food, planning menus, figuring out the route and booking accommodation. He said "I loved the Coast to Coast ride...it pushed my limits and made me realise I could go further than I thought I could and it developed deeper bonds with the others on the ride...I was also able to make a film about the experience which was then shown to lots of people and organisations".

The bike rides led Cameron on to a whole range of different activities with the National Park Authority. Meeting NPA staff led to opportunities for Cameron to develop his skills and experience as a filmmaker and he made short films of a range of things, such as an NPA Dark Skies event. Now he is working with the NPA to develop an Arts Council funded project making arty films to demonstrate the unique qualities of Northumberland National Park. This experience with Mosaic has also enabled him to get paid work making films through contacts he met working with the National Park Authority.

Cameron has also represented other young people by speaking at national events for National Park staff. He held an audience spellbound as he described what he'd got out of his experiences in Northumberland National Park and how support from the project officer had enabled him to take up opportunities he wouldn't have otherwise done.

Cameron is now studying film-making in Newcastle and continuing his adventures in the Northumberland National Park.

The Campaign for National Parks ran the Mosaic youth project from 2013-2016 in partnership with the YHA and five National Park Authorities (Exmoor, Lake District, New Forest, Northumberland and Yorkshire Dales). The project aimed to make positive changes in young people's lives through engaging with National Parks. www.cnp.org.uk