

## Mosaic Legacy Materials

### Case Study 5: Adam Philip-Phillips, Lake District



Adam, 23, was living in Whitehaven, Cumbria, when he first got involved with Mosaic and the Lake District National Park. Having left school at 16, he was working as an assistant for touring bands. He wanted to move on, but had no real aspirations or ideas. The Job Centre didn't encourage his life on the road, telling him he needed to stay within a 50-mile radius to get any assistance. Adam started to volunteer in Whitehaven with The Conservation Volunteers, and through them was referred to Mosaic.

'I didn't have a clue what it was, but I had nothing going on, so I thought I'd try it. I did a taster day at Derwentwater Regatta. I was asked to fire the starting cannon! That totally got me hooked.' After this explosive start, Adam's taken up a raft of opportunities including conservation

volunteering, taking people walking in the Lake District National Park, speaking to members at the National Park Authority (NPA), volunteering as a Mosaic project assistant, becoming a member of the NPA Volunteer Leadership Team and speaking at national events. Adam has articulately challenged stereotypes and helped staff at National Park Authorities gain new perspectives on engaging young people. Here Adam talks about his experiences with Mosaic.

#### **What was the best thing you've done through Mosaic?**

Getting into university. I had never dreamed of going to uni. I didn't like education at school. Clare, the Mosaic project officer, noticed that I was naturally leading some of the groups and introduced me to the 'Aspiring Leaders' degree course at Cumbria University. I was unsure what I'd got myself into at first, but it's awesome. One of the things I've done was a piece of research into how National Park Authorities work with young people. Staff and members from lots of National Parks have read it.

I've also made lifelong friendships and contacts – National Park staff, CNP staff, other champions from around the country. I've met other young people who are going somewhere.

#### **What's your best experience in a National Park.**

My Dad had never been to the Lake District. I'd heard about Scale Force Waterfall, but had never been there because I don't have a car. We went together in his car and walked up it. My dad loved it. I loved it. It was such a great experience for me to show him something like that.

#### **Why have you kept doing Mosaic?**

The project officers have a skill – I call it pixie dust. They relate to you, inspire you, motivate you. Clare made sure I knew what was going on, but didn't pressure me to do things – it was always my choice. She treated me like an adult. That was different to other experiences I'd had.

#### **What future plans do you have with National Parks?**

National Parks have inspired me. I'd like to set up a project where I take people to National Parks for the first time. Or an art group for people to paint in the fells. It's such a natural creative space. The world is getting faster. People are stuck in a rat-race. It's so good to press pause, have no wifi, no emails, just relax, sit down, look at the sky, and turn yourself off from the world.

And I'm going travelling. I wouldn't have had the confidence to do that – and the places I want to see now are not urban jungles like New York, but natural places – Iceland, Greece, other National Parks. I want to explore natural places. I've really taken that from Mosaic.

*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](http://www.cnp.org.uk)*