



Mountain Adventure Fund

Update Sep 24 - Aug 25

Your generous donations have been invaluable in helping young people access the mountains and the rugged outdoors. We're excited to share an update on the **Mountain Adventure Fund's (MAF)** progress.

During the academic year Sept 2023-Aug 2024, we supported **132 young people** from two London schools experiencing outdoor activities in their local community. Of these, **62** students, along with their teachers and eight volunteers, took part in week-long residential at the Plas y Brenin (PYB) National Outdoor Centre, in Eryri (Snowdonia).

In the current academic year, (Sep 2024-Aug 2025), we've expanded our reach to **269 young people** across five schools in London, Birmingham and Coventry. Of these, **123** have visited PYB, for residential, accompanied by their teachers, and 12 volunteers.

We've also extended our impact, now working with two secondary schools, alongside our engagement with three primary schools, delivering on our promise of continued progression for young people.

A recent WWF study (2024) found that outdoor learning drops significantly from primary (35%) to secondary (only 10%). Over half (56%) of the UK secondary schools surveyed offered no outdoor learning at all. With such drop off in outdoor opportunities, MAF is filling a much needed gap in provision and we aim to grow our impact further across the UK.

In June this year, we hosted our first fundraising event with Ellis Brigham, attended by over 80 people. Two of our partner schools, shared their experiences and the positive changes they are seeing among their young people.

Our volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, many returning to support local activity trips. As one volunteer shared: **"The local activities are so important. They build on the relationships made during the residential."** – Charles Devas, 2025

We're also developing a new impact measurement framework and theory of change to align our strategy, delivery, and outcomes. This involves working closely with stakeholders and young people to co-design high quality programmes, that reflect lived experiences, created in partnership with the communities we seek to reach.

As part of The Mountain Training Trust (MTT), which runs PYB, we've gone from strength to strength. We're working hard to maximise the impact of our strategic relationships and partnerships. Together, our aim is to positively affect the lives of children and young people across the UK. Recent funding secured by MTT has allowed PYB to provide comfortable bunkhouse accommodation. MTT are also currently fundraising for a new multi-faith prayer to better welcome young people from all communities.

Your support has enabled MAF to grow and respond to the needs of our schools, young people, volunteers and you, our funders. Without it, these stories wouldn't be possible.

We'd love to hear from you if there's anything more you'd like to see or know from us.

As always, a warm and heartfelt thank you.

The MAF team



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Our Goals



Access to Wild Places



Increase Mental health and Wellbeing



Improve Education Outcomes



Improve Physical Health

Our Impact

Sep 24 - Aug 25

269 Young People on Local Activities

123 Young People on Residentials

5 Schools engaged

3 Regions reached

Young People Skills

Schools shared that as a result of engaging in MAF, young people increased the following skills, tracked through interviews and feedback forms;



Teamwork



Confidence



Wellbeing



Outdoor
Appreciation



Physical
Fitness

The Opportunity

With your support, we can expand our efforts.



Expand to other areas of the UK



Enhance local community & volunteer engagement



Strengthen monitoring & sustainable practices

Volunteer Feedback

In October 2024, Charles and Becky supported on the residential at Plas y Brenin and in March 2025, Becky joined the same group on their climbing wall visit whilst Charles supported them kayaking in July 2025.



Charles' experience

"It was a pleasure to be one of the first MML volunteers to accompany Canon Barnett Primary to Wales in October. The children were in awe from the moment they arrived at PyB which inspired them to make some unforgettable memories. It was incredibly rewarding to witness their enthusiasm for the outdoors which, for some of them, was a novel experience.

But also, to see how many of the children grew in confidence during the week as they often tackled activities for the very first time – sometimes individually, but also as a team, which allowed them to grow closer as a group. It was an excellent opportunity to see first-hand the impact that MML, among other supporters, can have on these MAF trips."



Becky's experience

"I'm so grateful to MML for providing me with an opportunity to be able to share my love of the outdoors with the children on the MAF course last year. It was inspiring to see the children experience new and challenging environments that put them out of their comfort zone and how they adapted to their surroundings. The centre in Wales, Plas y Brenin, is a world away from inner city London, and the children all worked hard through the week to overcome their fears of being away from home, many for the first time, heights when it came to abseiling and rock climbing, and for some, just being outside in the elements!

My highlights were witnessing a boy that hadn't spoken a word all week open up when taken to a beach for the first time, asking me the names of the various shells he was finding, and another, after being asked what activity he enjoyed most responded with 'I really liked the river walk, because there was just so much space to breathe, and that made me really happy here (pointing to his heart)'. It means a lot to be able to give these children the opportunities that so many of us might take for granted."

Opportunities 2025-2026

We are delighted to provide the following list of all the opportunities and ways you can continue to support us, please feel free to get in touch if you have any other ideas or questions.

- **Want to get outside, hiking up a mountain or paddling out on the kayak, whilst supporting young people? Corporate volunteering opportunities for your staff**
- **Volunteer Training Dates (Places available in 2025/2026)**
- **Fancy running a marathon or doing a hiking challenge for us? Fundraising opportunities, including Sportive Race places**
- **Direct Partnership and Sponsorship opportunities**
- **Introductions to other corporate organisations, foundations and local grants**
- **We are always grateful for any [donations](#)**

Please contact info@mountaintrainingtrust.org for more information on volunteering.

We really appreciate your support so far. With your continued investment we can reach even more young people in the year ahead. Please get in touch with the team to discuss funding the next academic year September 2025 - August 2026.



Thank you for your continued support!