

Adventures Away from Home

FAQs

Adventures
Away from Home



UK YOUTH

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Introduction

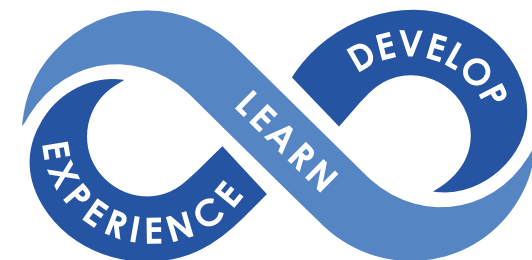
UK Youth's 'Adventures Away from Home 25/26' Fund in partnership with DCMS, provides equitable access to outdoor learning for young people facing significant barriers.

The programme supports those from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds, including disabilities, young carers, and minoritised groups.

The **purpose** is to build young people's socio-emotional skills, resilience, confidence, and positive relationships through nature and shared experiences and experience safe opportunities for growth, wellbeing, and physical activity.

This exciting funding opportunity enables **outdoor learning providers** to deliver free outdoor learning experiences for young people aged 11–18 (and up to 25 for SEND), ensuring the programme's purpose is fully met.

Adventures Away from Home



UK YOUTH



Before reading the full application guidance and FAQ documents we recommend you thoroughly read the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility

UK Youth's definition of Outdoor Learning - Experiential Learning within an outdoor environment to support a young person's personal, social, and educational development, improve health and wellbeing, engagement with physical literacy, and environmental awareness. The outdoor space in which learning takes place is an integral part of the learning process. (Added 17 Sep 25)



If you are unsure if you are eligible, please contact us AAfH@ukyouth.org or see Q26 how you can help your young people access these opportunities.



Please note:

please also ensure you read questions regarding the eligibility of the young people able to access this funding.



1. Who is eligible to apply for this funding? – Updated 9 Sep 25

This fund is open to **established organisations** that directly deliver outdoor learning opportunities as part of their existing portfolio.

To be eligible for this funding, organisations must be able to deliver the outdoor learning programme directly. Funding is not available for organisations intending to outsource delivery to external providers or take young people to alternative venues operated by others. However, funding may be used by organisations that take eligible young people to centrally accessible green or blue spaces, provided the activities are delivered by their own qualified and trained staff.

We are aiming to attract a diverse range of applicants and welcome proposals from organisations that use the natural environment as a core part of their delivery, including but not limited to:

- ✓ outdoor learning venues
- ✓ farms
- ✓ sports organisations
- ✓ arts and heritage organisations
- ✓ environmental focused organisations
- ✓ youth organisations with outdoor learning facilities

Eligible organisations must:

- ✓ Be a registered charity or not-for-profit
- ✓ Have been operating for at least two years
- ✓ Be based in England
- ✓ Provide safe working practices and a safe environment for young people

Organisations not eligible to apply

- ✗ Anyone with less than 2 years operations
- ✗ Limited and Private companies
- ✗ Organisations offering indoor only programmes
- ✗ Organisations including youth organisations and schools seeking to take their young people to an alternative provider to participate. The delivery organisation must be the applicant.

2. Are previous recipients / applicants able to apply again?

Yes. All applications will be assessed on their individual merit and in accordance with the published criteria. Applications will not be assessed based on any previous submissions or past delivery. Previous recipients or applicants are therefore welcome to apply again and will be considered on an equal basis with all other applicants.

3. What is the essential Safeguarding & Health and Safety Requirements? – Updated 9 Sep 25

Organisations will preferably hold at least one externally verified and assessed quality assurance certification, which includes a review of your safeguarding and Health and Safety policies and procedures. Examples LOfC Quality Badge, AALA or AHOEC Gold standard. (Note – successful applicants holding only an AALA licence will be asked to provide a safeguarding policy)

Organisations who do not have externally verified and assessed quality assurance certification, which includes a review of your safeguarding and Health and Safety policies and procedures can demonstrate these requirements by following DfE Out of Schools Safeguarding Guidance for providers of activities, after-school clubs, tuition, and other out-of-school settings and must be able to provide:

- ✓ an effective safeguarding and child protection policy including escalation and referral processes.
- ✓ named designated safeguarding lead,
- ✓ relevant and up to date documents that include:
 - ✓ health and safety policy
 - ✓ fire evacuation policy and procedure
 - ✓ staff and volunteer employment checks (DBS)
 - ✓ complaints policy
 - ✓ staff behaviour policy or staff code of conduct

All organisations should comply with their own procedures throughout the delivery of this programme and will have to report safeguarding and Incidents to UK Youth on a simple form.

Application Process

If in doubt, please contact AAfH@ukyouth.org so we can advise prior to submitting your application



4. How do I apply?

To apply, you can use this [link](#) and follow the steps outlined in the application form. You'll be guided through a series of questions as part of the process. To help you prepare, additional information about these questions has been shared in a [pdf document](#) separately, so you can review and plan your responses in advance.

5. What is the application deadline?

The deadline for all applications is **10am Friday 26 September 2025**.

6. Do I have to complete the application form in one go?

No, you can come back to your application at any time, but if in doubt please draft your application on a word document or equivalent using the [application guidance document](#).

7. Can I make more than one application?

Only one application can be submitted per organisation, however, each organisation can simultaneously apply for both residential and day visit funding in a single application.

Organisations with more than one centre should apply centrally unless each centre is operated and registered independently.

8. What documents do I need to include with my application?

No documents are required with your application.

If you are successful, you will be required to provide a copy of your organisations bank statement and insurance certificate as part of our verification checks, and we may also require access to safeguarding or policy documents.

Timeline

Please note:

you will be notified on the outcome of your application via the primary and additional email address provided in your application only.



9. When is the deadline for the application to be submitted?

10am Friday 26 September 2026.

10. When will I receive notification on the outcome of my application?

All successful applicants who have submitted their application prior to 10am Friday 26 September 2025, will receive confirmation of their funding grant by no later than **5pm Friday 3rd October 2025.**

11. When could I receive the funding?

Once you have been notified of a successful grant application, and due diligence checks have been completed, we will send you a funding contract agreement for you to sign and return.

50% of your grant will be made within 30 days on receipt of your signed funding contract agreement.

The remaining 50% of your grant will be paid within 30 days of confirmation that final delivery has been successfully completed. Payment is contingent on verification that:

- ✓ The full delivery plan has been completed (not just individual elements), and
- ✓ All required and agreed evaluation and impact data have been submitted in line with contractual requirements.

12. When does the grant have to be spent by?

All delivery must be complete by **31st March 2026.** This deadline is non-negotiable.

Funding Details

Please note:

Young people must be living in England (Added 17 Sep 25)

Please note:

this funding is not designed for organisations working only with existing groups in familiar settings.

13. How much funding can I apply for?

Our intention is to award a selection of both small and large grants to ensure we are providing a diverse range of opportunities for young people across England.

There is no minimum, and the maximum amount can only be up to a maximum of 50% of your organisation's annual turnover.

Applications that clearly demonstrate the organisations capacity and capability, within the required timescale and are aligned to the aims of Adventures Away from Home 25/26 are likely to stand out and be viewed as stronger candidates during the assessment process.

14. Which Young People are eligible to attend Adventures away from Home 25/26 – Added 9 Sep 25

Adventures Away from Home exists to give under-represented and disadvantaged young people the chance to step outside their everyday lives, explore unfamiliar environments, and build vital social, emotional, and life skills.

AAfH 25/26 aims to reach young people facing significant barriers, working with groups from youth, education, and faith settings, including but not limited to:

+						
						
those living in poverty	with SEND	young women and girls	from minoritised ethnic groups	in the secure state	with low academic attainment	refugees
						
with English as an additional language	experiencing financial barriers to access	experienced care	with caring responsibilities	with physical disabilities	LGBTQI+	those who need additional support to participate

Please note:

We only fund across these 3 set criteria, there is no permitted variations

(Added 17 Sep 25)



This funding is designed to engage new young people, therefore each young person can only access one opportunity from the 25/26 fund. (Added 17 Sep 25)



Only small elements of any programme can be outsourced, but the lead organisation must maintain oversight (Added 17 Sep 25)



15. What does the funding cover?

The funding is set at the below rates and should cover all participation costs.

You can apply for any or all these option. If you require external services to support your application i.e.. accommodation or caterers it should be clear you remain accountable for the programme and safety of the young people. (Added 17 Sep 25)

- ➔ £70 per person for a one-day experience,
- ➔ £170 for a one-night residential and
- ➔ £240 for a two-night residential

The funding is intended to support the delivery of Adventures Away from Home experiences, in line with the delivery guidance and shouldn't be used for other purposes.

If you are considering additional support or funding from another organisation or funder, it can only be used to enhance the experience or help address barriers to participation, for example local community funding to help with transport to and from your venue or the purchasing of capital items such as waterproofs.

16. How can I tailor the programme to my organisation's delivery expertise or capacity? – (Added 17 Sep 25)

We want to acknowledge the breadth of outdoor learning providers across England and therefore there are no mandatory activities listed within the criteria, the criteria instead focus on the outcomes gained from the outdoor learning experiences and the contact time organisations will have with the young people attending.

Do include within your responses any relevant experience of running similar programmes.

In your completed application form, please ensure that your programme addresses all of these points



ESSENTIAL FUNDING CRITERIA (ALL PROGRAMMES)

- ✓ **Represent value for money** by maximising meaningful engagement time with experienced facilitators, maintaining appropriate ratios, and where appropriate aligning to National Governing Body guidelines
- ✓ **Reflect key values** by following the ethos of
 - ☑ experiential learning,
 - ☑ inclusivity, increasing access for under-represented young people
 - ☑ respect for the natural environment and
 - ☑ promote courage, curiosity and celebrate participation.
- ✓ **Demonstrate high quality** through clear learning outcomes linked to our impact frame-work, supporting the development of young people's socio-emotional and life skills.

ESSENTIAL FUNDING CRITERIA (DURATION SPECIFIC)

One Day	One Night Residential	Two Night Residential
A minimum of 4 hours direct engagement time.	A minimum of 8 hours direct engagement time	A minimum of 12 hours direct engagement time
Every young person is provided with a meal as part of their experience.	Every young person is provided with full board accommodation across the duration of their stay which should include at least four meals , of which one must be a hot meal.	Every young person is provided with full board accommodation across the duration of their stay which should include at least six meals of which two must be hot meals.

No specific funding is allocated for leader places. Organisations are expected to include and cover the cost of any required leader places within their overall awarded funding.

If additional support is required to cover leader places beyond what can be reasonably accommodated within the core grant, organisations may submit a request for further support through the discretionary fund.

Decision Making

17. How will the grant payments be made?

Grant payments will be made by bank transfer to the bank details confirmed as part of your due diligence checks.

18. Who reviews the applications?

All eligible submissions will be assessed by a grant panel that will include young people and will follow a clear assessment framework.

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria and have submitted all requested information will be assessed against the following:

- ✓ Meeting Governance asks
- ✓ Capacity & Credibility of the organisation
- ✓ Equitable and Inclusive access.
- ✓ The content of the programme and its ability to deliver young people development of their socio-emotional skills
- ✓ Value for money

The fund overall will look to demonstrate the breadth of activity taking place in the sector so collectively the successful applications will demonstrate diversity amongst:

- ✓ Activities undertaken
- ✓ Young people reached facing significant barriers to outdoor learning participation
- ✓ A good level of geographical split across England.

We recommend including details in your application about why the young people you wish to work with are experiencing disadvantage or under-representation. (Added 17 Sep 25)



Young People should not be already scheduled to attend; they must be those who would be unable to take part without this funding. (Added 17 Sep 25)



19. What scoring criteria will the applications be assessed against?

Each application will be reviewed by an assessment panel, with every question scored on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 the highest). Guidance notes are provided for each question to help applicants maximise their score. After all applications are assessed, scores will be totalled, and organisations will be ranked. The highest-scoring applicants across each region will then be notified of their success.

Strong applications will provide a succinct and compellingly narrative that shows strong evidence of socio-emotional and life skill development, linked to the [UK Youth Experience, Learn, Develop Framework](#). Young people's voices should be central, clearly shaping both design and implementation. Strong applications may also include examples of unique provision or innovation, effective partnerships, or impact beyond core expectations. The use of examples to illustrate success is strongly encouraged where possible.

20. Will any extra funding be available after this grants round?

Our aim is to allocate all funding in a single round. A second round will only be considered if this round does not identify enough suitable applicants to deliver the full programme, so we strongly encourage early applications.

21. What is Discretionary Funding and how will it be allocated?

The Discretionary Fund is a targeted funding that helps organisations tackle exceptional barriers faced by specific young people or groups.

Launched after the main grant round closes, it allows successful applicants to request additional top-up funding for the purpose to provide flexible, responsive support where it's needed most, driving fair and equitable access.

Discretionary funding is additional funding outside the standard funding per person which can be used by successful providers to overcome barriers to participation. It is typically group or individual specific and can be used for costs such as British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters or to provide funding for trusted adults or carers to provide essential 1:1 support for young people with complex needs.

Successful Organisations will have an opportunity to submit a request for discretionary funding after the initial grant funding has been awarded which can be requested at any stage of the delivery period, subject to availability.

Discretionary funding will be decided by a grant panel and cannot be guaranteed until approved. If your entire application is dependent on discretionary funding we recommend submitting your application for discretionary funding before returning your signed grant agreement.

Evaluation and Reporting

Please note:

We may be able to help identify replacement groups through our networks, though this cannot be guaranteed.



22. What reporting requirements are there if I receive a grant?

Reporting will be collated using UpShot, a specialist digital platform for evaluation reporting. Data can be securely added directly by youth workers and young people attending. Providers will be asked to facilitate supporting this. Providers will still need to collect photos of delivery, submit case studies, and complete an end-of-delivery survey.

This streamlined approach will reduce the reporting burden and ensure access to real-time data as the programme progresses.

A dedicated webinar will be held to explain the evaluation requirements, details of which can be found under [Q25](#).

23. What support is available for successful providers around completing evaluation requirements?

Support is available through a dedicated email address AAfH@ukyouth.org where you can submit queries at any time, with the option to request a callback for more detailed support. We will also establish a peer support network to enable organisations to connect, share learning, and offer help to one another. This will include opportunities to engage regionally and, where useful, across regions to build a collaborative learning community.

24. What if I apply for 25 places and only deliver 23 places – do I need to return unused funds?

Your funding agreement is based on the total number of places allocated to you, which can be delivered through multiple visits at your discretion.

We understand that delivery plans may need to change during the funding period. Please follow the guidance below:

- ➡ **Minor changes** (e.g. changes to delivery dates within the agreed window or small adjustments to numbers, up to 10%): No update required unless, this impacts a scheduled quality assurance visit.
- ➡ **Major changes** (e.g. significant drop in participant numbers or cancellation of a full group): If you're unable to replace the group within the delivery period or have incurred costs due to last-minute cancellations that can be substantiated, please contact us immediately, so we can explore potential support or, if necessary, discuss reducing your grant and final payment.

All delivery, including rescheduled sessions, must be completed within the agreed delivery window of **31 March 2026**.

Help

Please note:

AAfH@ukyouth.org inbox is monitored 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday and we will aim to get back to you within 2 business days.



25. Who do I contact if I need help?

UK Youth are committed to making our grant funding accessible to all applicants and it is our intention to remove all barriers that may prevent an organisation from completing the application form.

Please contact us at AAfH@ukyouth.org if you require additional support to complete your application.

26. Is there a webinar I can watch or attend?

The following Zoom Webinars will be available to all applicants; please register in advance of the webinars you wish to attend:

- 📅 Friday 12 September at 2pm – AAFH 25/26 general briefing for applicants
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YQyEYINuRNyRGryWPurLmw
- 📅 Monday 15 September at 11am – AAFH 25/26 general briefing for applicants
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AscRQaF1Q7GpQSRGPVwVaw
- 📅 Wednesday 17 September at 2pm – AAFH 25/26 New digital app Evaluation
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GB84dCYSR6ONQdeN8cW41A
- 📅 Tuesday 23 September at 11am – AAFH 25/26 – Q&A Clinic
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iCStPcHESA27E1EUguLV5g

27. I've made a mistake on the form I completed. Can I amend it?

You can make changes to your application up until the moment you submit your application.

Once submitted if you want to make any changes to your application you will need to notify us at AAfH@ukyouth.org.

Amendments will only be possible up until the closing date 10am Friday 26 September 2025

Other FAQs

28. What can I do if my organisation is not eligible?

If your primary purpose is not the delivery of outdoor learning, or you are a youth organisation seeking opportunities for your young people, we recommend contacting your preferred local provider to see if they are applying for funding and register your interest in attending.

Alternatively, you can contact us at AAfH@ukyouth.org and title your email '*find me a venue*' and with your consent we will pass on your contact details to any successful organisations delivering in your area.

29. Will I get feedback if I am unsuccessful?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide feedback.

30. Can I appeal the decision?

No, the panel's decision is final.

31. What non evaluation reporting requirements are there?

All organisations are required to report H&S or Safeguarding incidents directly linked to the delivery of Adventures Away from Home programme to us within set window times depending on the severity, this will be shared with successful applicants.

As a part of our quality assurance programme for Adventures Away from Home we reserve the right to conduct in person quality assurance checks incorporating the above, during your delivery window, which will be agreed at least one week in advance at a mutually agreed date and time.

32. Can delivery take place outside England? – (Added 17 Sep 25)

No, this funding is specifically designed to support young people and organisations based in England. That means all young people taking part must live in England, and all activities must be delivered within England.

UK YOUTH

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