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**South West Wiltshire Leisure Credits Scheme – September/October 2021**

**Parent & Young Person Information Letter**

Despite the government easing various restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are still continuing to exercise caution as we know that the majority of the young people we work with remain unvaccinated. Also, we are a small staff team with lots of youth work commitments so we are trying to avoid closures and disruption to our delivery. We are, therefore, asking that all **young people continue to wear face coverings** on our **transport** and at any **indoor session**, as well as when they are in **close contact** to others when **outdoors** – we aim to have as many leisure credits sessions outdoors, however there may be sessions where this is just not possible. We know that young people are required to do **twice weekly lateral flow testing** for school and we hope that those not in educational settings are also able to do this so we can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus at our sessions.

We have planned a number of work sessions over the coming months with a planned reward trip and residential during October. We are able to fill all seats on our minibuses, as long as all young people are using hand sanitiser when they get on and off the bus as well as wearing face coverings for the duration of their journey, however we still need to keep a bit of space on the bus for lunches, tools etc so we have a maximum of 13 spaces at work sessions unless part of the group are able to get there on foot. It is **essential that spaces are booked** for the sessions you wish to addend, however, **please only book into sessions that you know you can make and please let us know if you are no longer able to attend** a session as soon as possible. All participants will need to have completed a **new Seeds4Success annual consent form** (for September 2021-September 2022), so, please can you complete one of these be the end of the month. Ideally, parents/carers will download it from our website [www.seeds4success.org.uk](http://www.seeds4success.org.uk) and complete it online and email it back to me at jaki@seeds4success.org.uk but printed versions are available if necessary so please just ask.

Our Leisure Credits sessions will be running from **10am – 4pm from Mere Youth Centre** – this means that for those requiring transport pick-ups and drop offs will be before or after these times and they will be confirmed the night before. Leisure Credits is a popular project and spaces are often in high demand. Priority on this project is given to young people who are actively engaged in other opportunities delivered by Seeds4Success as this enables the greatest impact in their personal development. We may be running another project alongside Leisure Credits during half term, therefore booking a seat on the minibus is more important than ever as it is possible that we will have extra children and young people to transport to Mere. We are able to provide lunches, and these will be made by a member of staff or a volunteer before the session or during the day so please let us know if you would like us to provide a lunch as we are happy to do so. You are of course welcome to bring your own lunches and snacks too.

We will send a reminder text prior to each session as we are aware that things come up and young people are sometimes unable to attend at short notice, but it really is important that we have close to the maximum of 13 young people at all our sessions as our funding is reliant on this. We would like to book spaces for the reward activity as soon as possible so if young people could please identify what they would like to do – they can make a guess as to the number of credits they will earned based on how many sessions they are expecting to do – that would be really helpful. Once a reward trip is booked and paid for credits have been allocated and thus if a young person is then not able to attend, they will still have used the credits unless we are able to find a replacement. Credits can be saved for future trips and once young people have attended a minimum of 6 work sessions, they are also able to use 12 credits to get a Leisure Credits S4S hoodie. Please make sure you write on the consent form if you want a hoodie and if you want your name on it - we need to make a separate payment (£1 for a small name on the front or £3 for large name on the back or sleeve) or you can take it to Ram Sports in Wincanton yourself to get this done.

Please ensure the attached leisure credits consent form and an annual consent form (1st September 2021 – 30th September 2022) are completed and returned as soon as possible. Copies of all these forms are available on our website [www.seeds4success.org.uk](http://www.seeds4success.org.uk) and can be returned to jaki@seeds4success.org.uk to save printing and paper costs.

**Work sessions:**

We are planning to run the following work sessions during the September and October, however, if there are changes in guidance due to the Covid-19 pandemic, or we have illness or self-isolation amongst staff or young people, we may be forced to change these. We have some planned work tasks identified and allocated to dates but these are subject to change. The sessions are likely to include a range of practical and conservation tasks such as removal of invasive species, clearing woodlands / repurposing felled timber, weeding military badges or community gardens, footpath clearance work, digging ditches, repairing/restoring gates, stiles, steps, fences, benches or play equipment, levelling or resurfacing footpaths, supporting with community events and practical tasks such as woodwork and tool repair. The dates allocated as work sessions are as follows:

**Saturday 25th September – Weeding Military Badges, Fovant**

**Saturday 9th October**

**Saturday 23rd October**

**Tuesday 26th October**

**Thursday 28th October**

Please be at the pick-up points by the following times unless you receive a text message with a revised time **(we will only go to pick up points if we are expecting young people to be there and thus these are only rough guides)**: Wilton (Turning area just inside Sadlers Mead) 9:00am, Tisbury Cross 9:25am, Hindon 9:35am, West Knoyle 9:45am or meet at Mere Youth Centre at 10:00am. It may also be possible to organise pick-ups/drop off’s for Zeals and Kilmington, however this may be significantly earlier or later depending on the other transport requirements or commitments of staff (cleaning, shopping etc) and need to be requested in advance. We aim to finish all sessions in Mere around 4pm and drop young people back to pick up points after this time.

It is vital that you let us know which sessions you can attend and please only book into those you know you can attend so that we do not have wasted sessions. If for some reason, you are not able to make it to a session you are booked on to please make sure you contact me (Jaki) 07585723824 or Rose 07557334158 at the earliest opportunity. The charity needs to ensure that sessions are maximised and run at capacity so that money is not lost, and funding does not cease. Please assume you have a space on the sessions you have booked unless you are told otherwise.

All sessions will involve outdoor work so please ensure all young people wear old clothes with long sleeves, if possible, bring a waterproof jacket if it looks wet and a drink bottle with them. Even on days where the weather is warm, please wear long sleeves on tops and bottoms, or as a minimum bring long sleeved clothing with you as there are often brambles, nettles and other nasties that can irritate / hurt bare skin and suncream is also required. We will provide some food for the group although they are also welcome to bring their own snacks too if they prefer.

**Reward and Development Activities:**

**Sunday 24th October – Theme Park Trip, Fright Night @ Thorpe Park, Staines – 22 Credits – minimum 10, maximum 14 spaces**

This trip is only for young people aged 13 and over I’m afraid. All tickets for this trip must be booked and paid for in advance therefore I need to book as soon as possible and by Sun 10th October at the latest. The park opens at 10am and we aim to be there for opening to allow as much time as possible to go on rides and explore the others events. Tickets for scare mazes are an additional cost, however, if young people do want to use more of their credits to get these tickets please tick this option on the return slip, or make sure you let me know by text and if possible I will add these too. I will need to select a specific time slot for these bookings so this may impact on your ability to queue for rides at this time.

Young People need warm clothes and ideally a waterproof jacket, a complete change of clothes and towel as the water rides will result in a total drenching and once it’s dark they will be very cold! They will be allowed to go around the theme park in groups, of no more than 6, unsupervised and be given check in times / locations throughout the day. They will be able to stay with a member of staff if they wish. We will provide one meal as part of the reward activity, which will on our journey home so at approximately 10pm so please can young people bring some food and drinks for the day. If this is going to be difficult for you please do let me know. We will need to ensure that we do not meet together as a big group other than at the end of the day.

Pick up times will be confirmed once we know who we are collecting from where and have allocated seats on minibuses. These will be based on where people live to make pick ups as easy as possible, however this will not decide your group for the day.

**Friday 29th to Sunday 31st October – Outdoor Activities Residential, Caerhafod, nr. St Davids, Pembrokeshire – 45 credits – 12 spaces**

Spaces on this residential will be allocated in the first instance to young people aged 12-15 who have demonstrated good behaviour and a positive attitude at work sessions and have attended a minimum of 12 work sessions in the past 12 months or completed a minimum of 6 work sessions over the summer holidays (this can be peer leading at FUEL sessions). Young people aged over 16 who meet these criteria will also be offered a space on this residential if we are able to fit them in. Activities will include Surfing, Sea Kayaking & Coasteering and separate consent forms will be issued for this trip. We anticipate leaving Southwest Wiltshire in the morning on 29th October returning around 9pm on Sunday 31st. Please indicate on the consent form whether you are available and would like to be considered for this reward opportunity and further details, a kit list and an additional consent form will be issued soon.

**Additional Important Information:**

* **Young people will not be allowed to participate in this scheme unless the attached form has been signed by a parent/guardian and returned to a youth worker along with the current S4S annual consent form (1st September 2021-30th September 2022). This is for reasons of your own health and safety, and our concern to see that these trips are properly organised and that we all have a good time. So, remember, no form returned, no go on the event organised. If you are 18 years or over, you may complete the form yourself, but it must still be returned.**
* **Seeds4Success provides 3rd party liability insurance on all activities, but we are unable to provide personal accident or injury insurance or insurance for personal possessions. If young people do bring valuables to sessions, they are responsible for their safe keeping.**
* **Due to limited seats in the minibus, we must restrict the number of spaces on sessions. Please ensure you complete the attached consent form as soon as possible and indicate which sessions you will be attending and list any future trip ideas you would like to see offered. If sessions do not have young people booked on to them, they will be cancelled, and staff will carry out other work instead. It may be possible to arrange transport from other locations within the Southwest Wiltshire area for some of the sessions so please contact me to discuss this if required. If young people wish to meet us at a work site this is also possible but please ensure I know you are coming so that I can ensure we have sufficient food and tools**
* **The credits system has been developed in consultation with young people and a full day will be scored out of a maximum of 12. The minimum you will get for turning up and doing an average amount of work on a day's session, is 4 credits, providing you do not do anything detrimental to the task or the group. Young people who work exceptionally hard and are supportive of peers and staff may earn closer to or the maximum.**
* **Once young people put their name down for a trip and have said they are going their ‘credits’ have been committed and cannot be refunded if they don’t turn up (unless we are able to fill their space at short notice)**
* **Due to the outdoor and dirty nature of the work, please ensure that young people wear old clothes, suitable footwear and bring sun cream if it is hot or a warm/waterproof jacket if it is cold/wet.**
* **We will transport young people from pick up points by minibus to the various locations mentioned if they cannot be accessed by walking. Some refreshments will be provided although young people may also want to bring drinks and a packed lunch with them.**
* **It is expected that all young people abide by the rules of Seeds4Success (stated on the annual consent form), the procedures for young people during the Covid-19 pandemic and the agreed ground rules for sessions. Any young people in breach of these will be asked to leave the session and parents/guardians will be required to collect them from wherever they are.**

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jaki

Jaki Farrell

Charity Director

Mobile : 07585723824

Email : jaki@Seeds4success.org.uk

**South West Wiltshire Leisure Credits Scheme – September / October 2021**

**Parent Permission Form**

I give permission for my son/daughter/ward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(name) to take part in the following Leisure Credits sessions / Activities: *(please tick*)

Work:

**Saturday 25th Sept.  Saturday 9th October  Saturday 23rd October **

**Tuesday 26th October  Thursday 28th October **

Rewards:

**Sunday 24th October – Thorpe Park Fright Night **

Please tick if available from **29th – 31st October** and would like to go on the **residential** if selected 

Hoodies:

If you would like to use some of your credits to get a Seeds4Success Leisure Credits Team Hoodie, please tick what size you would like and state whether you would like a name and what size (and if so, what you want)

Large Kids  Small Adult  Medium Adult  Large Adult  Extra Large Adult 

I would like the name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ printed on my shirt.

I enclose £1 for this to be in small writing on the front 

I enclose £3 for this to be in large writing on the back 

I enclose £3 for this to be in large writing on the sleeve 

Please provide a mobile number that we can text pick up details to and say whose number this is e.g., young person, parent etc\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Please inform us of any changes to the information provided on the annual consent form: |
| Please provide emergency contact information for these sessions: |

I have completed a current annual consent form and a covid19 medical form, I understand I need to follow government guidelines on self-isolation, and I will notify Seeds4Success if my child or anyone they are in contact with have symptoms and they will not attend sessions if unwell. I have provided the most current medical information and an emergency contact number for this activity.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent / guardian) Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent / guardian)