2 Community, environment and fundraising

YFC prides itself on its active involvement with the local community. Every year almost all YFCs across the country get involved in a range of community, environmental and fundraising projects, with hundreds of members volunteering their time to help others. This can sometimes be referred to as Youth Social Action.

These projects are a good way of getting members, advisory members and club leaders to achieve a goal that requires teamwork, organisation, dedication and hard work to make them a success. The projects can also provide members with essential personal development skills, which can later be included on their CVs and used in interviews, setting them apart from other candidates in some instances.

YFC members can choose their own project based on their skills as well as local needs. In most cases anything goes, with muck sales, landscaping, painting and decorating projects to name but a few community, environmental and fundraising activities.

Successful projects that strengthen YFC links with the local community often appear in the local newspapers, so they are a practical way of promoting a positive image of YFC and young people. Members also like to see their hard work recognised and read about it in the local newspapers.

The NFYFC Prince of Wales Perpetual Challenge Charity Trophy and the Lionel Hill MBE Club Charity Cup recognise the hard work and achievements of club and county federations in raising thousands of pounds for charity and good causes each year. The two trophies are awarded to the county federation that has raised the most funds per member and the YFC club that has raised the most funds per member for charitable causes. It’s an incredible achievement and one that we can all be proud of and shout about.

In addition to community, environmental and fundraising projects, YFCs also elect their own charity or good cause to fundraise for each year.

The following pages contain contacts, ideas, useful links and club plans to get you started.
## Topics and ideas...

Here are just some of the different community, environmental and fundraising activities that can be included in the club programme.

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Some useful websites...

There are many organisations, companies and government agencies working to support young people. The websites listed here provide information about their programmes, how they work with young people as well as useful contact details. Once you decide on a community, environmental or fundraising project that you wish to include in your club programme, these links will provide you with a good starting point.

ACRE  
Conservation Volunteers (TCV)  
Community Service Volunteers (CSV)  
Canal and River Trust  
Country Alliance  
Do-it  
Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain  
English Heritage  
Environment Agency  
Groundwork UK  
Institute of Fundraising  
National Hedgelaying Society  
National Trust  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Pond Conservation  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
TimeBank  
vInspired

www.acre.org.uk  
www.tcv.org.uk  
www.csv.org.uk  
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk  
www.countryside-alliance.org.uk  
www.do-it.org.uk  
www.dswa.org.uk  
www.english-heritage.org.uk  
www.environment-agency.gov.uk  
www.groundwork.org.uk  
www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk  
www.hedgelaying.org.uk  
www.nationaltrust.org.uk  
www.neighbourhoodwatch.net  
www.pondconservation.org.uk  
www.rspb.org.uk  
www.timebank.org.uk  
www.vinspired.com

Please note NFYFC is not responsible for any content published on external websites that are publicised in The Source.
Planning a community project...

This is a great way of encouraging all members, advisory members and club leaders to get involved in intergenerational work.

Aim: To carry out a project that is of benefit to the community.

Objectives: To work with local community representatives.  
To involve all members in the planning and delivery of the project.  
To learn new skills required for the project.

What you need to do:

1. With your members, advisers and club leaders discuss project ideas that are feasible and realistic to do. Assess the abilities and skills of your members and use this to your advantage. Try to keep the project relatively simple as it will be easier to carry out this way.

2. Once you have an idea, contact the key local community representatives who the project will involve and invite them to a meeting to share your club’s ideas. They may already have their own ideas and wish to discuss them with you.

3. Write a list of who might be able to support you in your project as having useful people on board from the outset will help prevent problems at a later stage. Do your homework and research the legal requirements you will need to consider. The planning stage is crucial.

4. Along with the extra help, you can now begin to plan the detail of the project: How long it will take, cost, any training requirements, equipment, the best time of year and health and safety requirements. Research potential pots of external funding.

5. Plan the event in advance and allocate jobs to members that match their abilities. Decide when they will need to arrive and complete necessary paperwork in advance. Who will provide food, refreshments, toilets? Who will write the press release? Successful projects require planning.

Useful links:
Conservation Trust  
Groundwork  
vinspired  

www.tcv.org.uk  
www.groundwork.org.uk  
www.vinspired
Planning a fundraising event...

Organising a fundraising event can be a great way to involve lots of different people as well as the community as a whole. It can help to raise awareness of your cause, reach new audiences as well as promote YFC.

Aim: To hold a successful fundraising event.

Objectives:
- To provide the opportunity for teamwork in its planning and delivery.
- To give members an understanding of the legal requirements associated with organising such an event.
- To give members a sense of achievement.

What you need to do:

1. Establish the aim of the event and make sure that it fits with your club constitution's charitable objectives. Establish your target audience, who and how many people will be involved and the time of year. Research and discuss fundraising activities and decide on the most appropriate.

2. Discuss your ideas with your chosen charity, then work with the other officers to plan the event. You will need to work with the treasurer to prepare a budget to ensure that the event covers its costs and makes a profit. Decide how you will promote the event.

3. With your events officer, you will need to research which licenses need to be obtained. You can find information on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website or contact your county office. You must include health and safety arrangements, including risk assessments.

4. You will need to consider arrangements for food and alcohol, and insurance. If you’re planning an outdoors event, the Institute of Fundraising’s Outdoor UK Challenge Events is a comprehensive guide aimed at ensuring that you have everything covered.

5. If you are planning a fete or another event, the Institute of Fundraising’s Event Fundraising Code of Fundraising Practice is helpful to get you started. Keep your county office involved throughout as they will be able to give you advice and support to make sure it’s a success.

Useful links:
Institute of Fundraising
how2fundraise

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk
www.how2fundraise.org