

Manchester Nature Consortium – Youth Panel Information Pack

Youth Panel Member

We are looking for 4 passionate, energetic and creative young people from across Greater Manchester to join the Manchester Nature Consortium Youth Panel! As part of the Youth Panel, you will work alongside the Manchester Nature Consortium and the 6 current Youth Panel members to plan and deliver the 3rd annual Manchester Festival of Nature at Heaton Park. Read about the festival and the activities that took place last year [here](#).

If your mind is constantly buzzing with creative ideas, you like meeting new people and you're looking for a new challenge then this is the opportunity for you! No previous leadership or event planning experience is required.

You must be between 12-17 years old from January 2021 and live in Greater Manchester to be eligible to apply. There is an exception for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), who can apply up to the age of 25.

Diversity and inclusion are extremely important to us and we are committed to creating an environment where young people from all backgrounds feel welcome, listened to and valued. We encourage applications from young people currently underrepresented in the environmental movement, including young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, young people with disabilities, young people from working class backgrounds and LGBT+ young people.

Youth panel members will:

- Help develop our engagement strategy for the festival, focusing on how we can best engage young people and schools in the event.
- Help create promotional materials, social media posts and creative communications to promote the event across Greater Manchester.
- Work with and learn from like-minded young people and adults from the UK's biggest nature organisations.
- Gain key skills and experience like event planning and coordination, communications, organisation and teamwork.
- Receive 1:1 mentorship from Action for Conservation team members.
- Join the growing movement of young people fighting for their planet and inspire others to take action for nature.

What commitment will you give to the Youth Panel?

- Gain permission from your parents/carer to join the Youth Panel.
- Attend a minimum of two and ideally all seven meetings between January 2021 and June 2021.
 - Meetings are held once a month after school, usually hosted via an online video call, with the potential for in-person meetings closer to the event date.
- Actively contribute your ideas during meetings alongside the other MNC board members.
- Be part of the core organising team at the festival on Sunday 27th June 2021.

The MNC Youth Panel is a voluntary role. Any travel expenses from within the Greater Manchester area can be covered by the Manchester Nature Consortium.

Applying to the Youth Panel

Please click [here](#) to access our short online application. You will be asked to fill in your basic information and answer two questions:

1. Identify an environmental issue in Greater Manchester that is important to you and tell us why.
2. What do you hope to gain from being part of the Manchester Nature Consortium Youth Panel?

Applications close on **Sunday 3rd January 2021, at 11.59 pm.**

Make sure you speak to your parents before you apply so they are aware of the commitment you're making should your application be successful. If your application is successful, we will seek consent from your parent/carer before you are formally accepted onto the youth panel.

Next steps

1. We will in touch with our decision by **Friday 8th January.**
2. The official launch of the Youth Panel will take place during a weekend in January (**date tbc**).
3. The meeting dates for the Manchester Nature Consortium in 2021 are as below:
Tuesday 19th January
Tuesday 23rd February 23
Tuesday 23rd March
Tuesday 20th April
Tuesday 25th May
Tuesday 8th June
Tuesday 22nd June
Sunday 27th June - MFoN 2021

What is the Manchester Nature Consortium?

The Manchester Nature Consortium is made up of individuals from environmental charities and organisations who came together last year to plan the very first Manchester Festival of Nature. Currently the group includes individuals from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Action for Conservation, City of Trees, the RSPB, Chester Zoo, the RHS, Manchester City Council, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, the Woodland Trust, the Conservation Volunteers, Manchester Museum and Moors for the Future.

Coronavirus impacts

We will continue to follow the Government guidelines and local restrictions whilst organising and delivering the 2021 Manchester Festival of Nature. While we very much hope that we will be able to deliver an in-person festival safely, we're also excited to build on the success of this year's very first virtual event and host the festival online again if needed. We will make a decision as a partnership in the lead up to the festival and keep you informed along the way.

Links

- Read about last year's festival here: <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/events/manchester-festival-of-nature>
- Online application link: <https://forms.gle/ajaDeAAAhNs9Yq7S6>
- [Safeguarding Policy](#) - Action for Conservation is responsible for the safeguarding of the MNC Youth Panel (https://23a31a2f-0473-4fd9-a241-926953b06bd1.filesusr.com/ugd/b0a546_2b7716e842aa4d0f9a5da4aac88e9a21.pdf)