

Joe Kemp left, Touchstone community group leader
Jasmine right © Stephen Garnett

Case Study
Jasmine Cash

Jasmine Cash grew up in the Conwy Valley in North wales before moving to York St John University, where she studied Dance Education and Community.



Jasmin Cash © Stephen Garnett

After University, Jasmine returned to Wales and worked as a creative dance facilitator with schools and community groups, then relocated to North Yorkshire for this 12-month trainee role within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Jasmine tells us how it began…

When the pandemic hit, I couldn't continue as a freelancer, so I became a teaching assistant in a local school.

I knew that I wanted a change and I've always enjoyed being outdoors, so I worked with the RSPB as a volunteer and started thinking about how I could combine engagement work and the environment sector. I'd applied for a few roles, but I didn't have the qualifications or experience to secure a job.

I came across Groundwork's New to Nature scheme on social media and it sounded like a good way to gain relevant experience. The job specification, sounded a perfect fit for someone with my experience, wanting to work outside.

My job title is Education, Engagement and Wellbeing Trainee. I started off in a support role organising school and community visits to the National Park. This quickly progressed to leading on certain aspects of the visits. Now I plan, risk assess and lead the visits by myself.

Previously I had lead dance workshops and worked with schools, but there was still a steep learning curve. One of the biggest challenges was learning about the geography of the local area and feeling confident enough to talk about the Dales with authority. This I have learnt on the job along with how to adapt to the differing needs of community/education groups. Watching more experienced colleagues handle these demands has been invaluable to develop the skills to lead groups and activities with confidence.

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/learning-and-engagement

Left
Bird Box making with Touchstone community group
© Stephen Garnett

Right
Jasmin Cash © Stephen Garnett





"Now, I have the confidence that I can pursue a career in the outdoors and acquire the skills to be successful."

70
Visits supported

2
New educational sessions planned

13
Visits delivered independently

1
Green careers day for SEND students

"I will never forget the sense of pride and achievement they felt when they reached the top of Malham Cove and experienced the spectacular views for the very first time. I can't think of a better job to do in the environment sector!"

The outcomes and benefits

- Developing self-belief has been the most important aspect of the traineeship. I used to get really nervous about leading groups on my own, but I've learnt from the process and getting more confident.
- The outdoor leadership and navigation skills have really given me more confidence in my abilities.
- Attending conferences on accessibility and inclusivity and meeting some really inspiring people.
- This experience has allowed me to absorb best practice from my colleagues and integrate these elements within my personal development as an outdoor group leader.
- Perhaps the biggest learning is working as part of a much bigger team. Seeing how others adapt their leadership style and programme delivery to meet the needs of groups. School groups tend to need a lot more planning and focus on outcomes to dovetail with the National Curriculum, whereas community groups need more flexibility and the ability to adapt to a wider variety of needs and really 'think on your feet'.
- Believe in the skills and abilities that you already have, recognise the skills that you can already bring to the role and identify any new skills you need to be effective and work out how you can develop these.

NEW TO NATURE

GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Groundwork's New to Nature scheme aims to provide life-changing experiences for people who might not normally have access to a career in the environmental sector, with young people who are from an ethnic minority, who are disabled or who are from low-income homes being encouraged to apply for roles in all areas of the nature sector. 12-month placements are available in the following areas:

- Biodiversity and nature recovery that manage woodlands and river catchments, and protect plants or animals
- Urban green spaces that focus on community gardens, nature reserves and other green spaces
- Education and nature connection that promote a greater understanding of the environment

New to Nature trainees get paid a good wage, get on the career ladder with support from an employment mentor, gain experience, boost job prospects and build a career that protects the planet.

For further information, please contact: learning@yorkshiredales.org