

## The Parks and Countryside Rangers

The Parks and Countryside Ranger Service was established over 20 years ago, and has been working to bring people and wildlife together ever since.

Every day in the life of a Ranger is different and can involve surveying areas for wildlife, working with volunteers to improve local parks and countryside, supporting community groups who want to make a difference to their local green space, leading guided walks and of course working with children to teach them about the nature on their doorstep.

All of our work aims to protect and promote the wildlife and green spaces of Leeds and children are a hugely important part of this – we hope they enjoy their experience of the great outdoors and will help us to look after it in the future.

### The Parks and Countryside programme for out-of-school clubs

The Rangers run environmental play sessions for playschemes and children's clubs (such as Scouts, Brownies and after-school clubs) that are based in the Leeds district.

All of our staff are first aiders and are CRB-checked, and our sessions are fully risk-assessed.

We provide all the resources and equipment necessary to run the activities. There is a small charge of £1.50 per child per half-day session (up to 3 hours) and £2 per child for a full day session (up to 6 hours).



## Come out to play!

Fun doesn't have to take place indoors. Why not venture outside and see what the natural world has to offer?



Ranger-led visits to your local parks and countryside offer a fun way to learn about local habitats, plants and animals. They can open young eyes to the wonders of the great outdoors and give children an understanding of how they can protect it in the future.

All sessions can be adapted to the age and abilities of your group.

### How to book

To arrange a session, or to talk to the Rangers about these and other activities for children please get in touch!

Tel: (0113) 237 5320 or 237 5312

Email: [countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk)  
[www.leeds.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/rangers)

Sessions are subject to availability. The out-of-school scheme operates on a first come, first served basis, so you are advised to book early.



# Nature's Playground



Ranger-led activities for playschemes, clubs and out-of-school groups in Leeds

## Locations

There are hundreds of green spaces that can be used as natural playgrounds around the Leeds district. The sites listed below are some of the best places to visit with groups of children because of the quality and variety of their wildlife habitats but if there is a suitable alternative within walking distance of where you are based, we are happy to run sessions for you there.

### Central Leeds

Meanwood Park

### North Leeds

Chevin Forest Park, Otley\*

Golden Acre Park & Breary Marsh, Bramhope

### West Leeds

Bramley Fall Woods

Kirkstall Abbey grounds

Woodhall Lake\*

Pudsey Park

### South Leeds

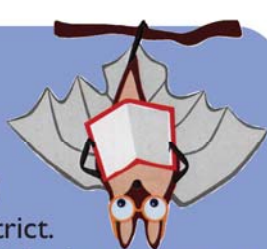
Middleton Park and Woods\*

Rothwell Country Park\*

### East Leeds

Hollinhurst Wood, Great Preston

Townclose Hills, Kippax



\* Sites with an asterisk have ponds suitable for pond-dipping



# Nature's Playground

Ranger-led sessions for out-of-school clubs include games, scavenger hunts, nature spotting, arts and crafts and practical work. They provide children (and grown-ups) with a hands-on experience of wildlife in its natural habitat, be it a pond, a grassland or a pile of leaves, as well as a breath of fresh air and the excitement of exploring a new environment.

Choose from the following themes for your visit. Most activities are suitable for children aged 7 to 12 but sessions can be tailored to suit the age range, interests and abilities of your group and will aim to make the best use of the facilities at the site that you visit. Please note that activity availability varies according to the site and the season.

## Making splash

Come for a pond-dip and find out what's lurking under the water! Pond-related games, quizzes and crafts.

## Bugs and beasties

Come on a minibeast safari and find out how creepy crawlies have adapted to their habitats. Camouflage games and crafts.

## Trees bien!

Learn how to identify trees, what they do and who lives in them, and explore the woodland habitat.

## Seed safari

How do seeds spread themselves around and how do they grow? Come seed collecting and take some home to grow yourselves. *Themed around wildflowers in summer, trees in autumn.*

## Our feathered friends

How are birds adapted to their environments? How do we identify them, how do they identify each other and how can we help them survive?

## Survival skills

Could you survive in the wild? Learn about wild food and build yourself a shelter in the woods, and find out about tracks and trails.

## Scavenger hunt

Use your detective skills to seek out natural treasures!

## Natural art

Use leaves, sticks, stones and other found objects to make a really wild work of art!

## Christmas crafts

Bring nature into the home at Christmas by making some natural Christmas decorations from sticks, cones and leaves!

## Making homes for wildlife

Lend a helping hand to our birds, bees, lacewings and hedgehogs by building them a home-made home for your garden or local wildlife area.

## Making bird feeders

Help the birds through the winter by making fatty feeders to hang in your garden, or in your local nature area.

## Wildlife games

Lots of fun outdoor games to do with wildlife and the environment!

## Helping nature

Get your hands dirty and do something practical to help wildlife! May include hayraking, treeplanting or willow weaving.

