



Chiltern Rangers Engaging the Next Generation Responses

August 2025

Questions

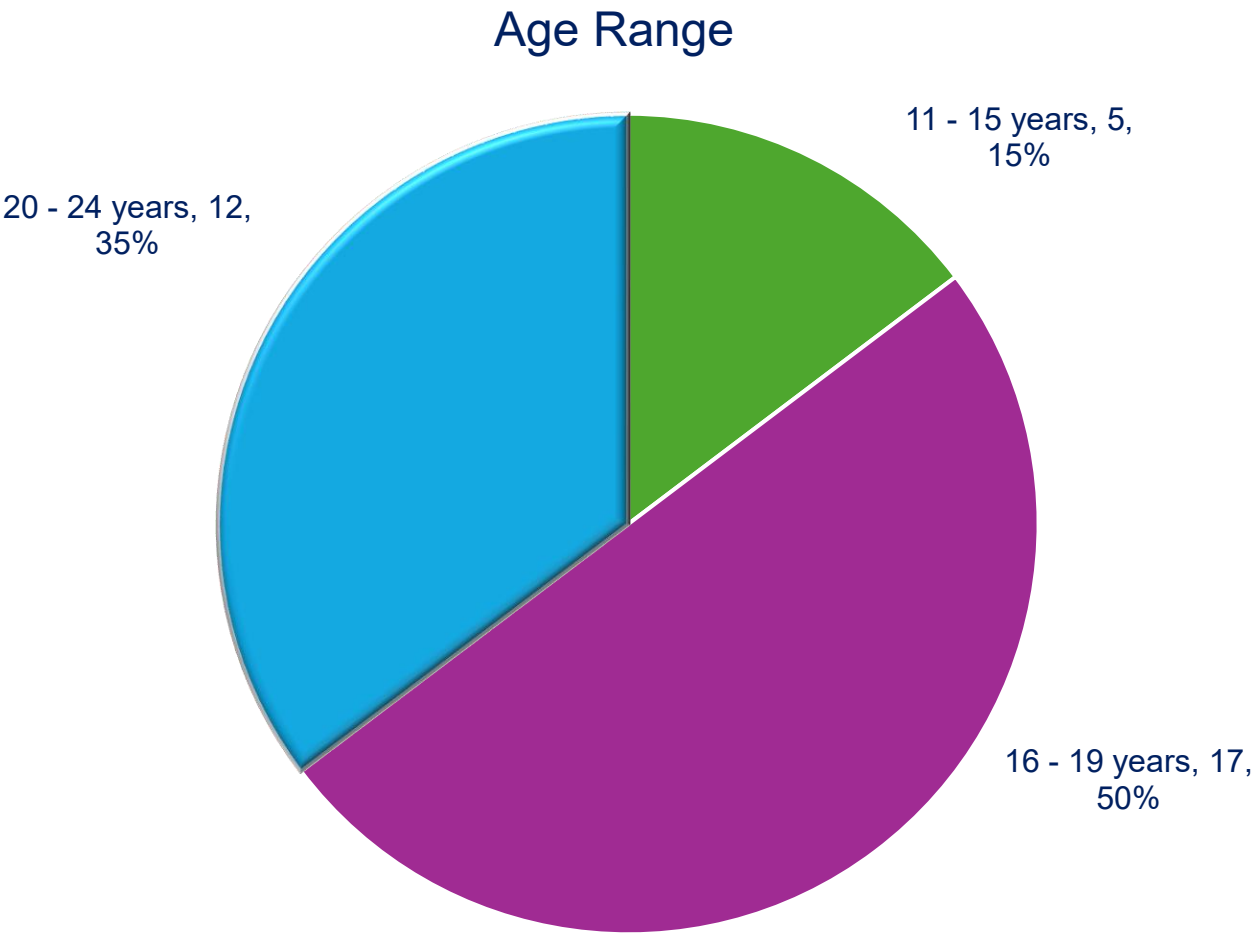
1. How old is the child in your care?
2. Has your child taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event before? If yes, tick all that apply:
3. If your child has not taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event, why do you think this is?
4. Who found out about the programme/event that your child participated in?
5. What was the main driver for signing up?
6. Has your child taken part in a project for young people with any of the following organisations:
7. If other, please give details:
8. It is important that: [the session can be referred to or mentioned on applications for UCAS/Apprenticeships/College/Jobs]
9. It is important that: [my child learns a new skill or gains knowledge about a particular subject]
10. It is important that: [my child spends time outdoors and away from screens]
11. It is important that: [has fun on the sessions]
12. It is important that: [my child has the opportunity to build confidence]
13. It is important that: [my child gets to mix with other children]
14. It is important that: [my child gets to work with a mixture of different ages and abilities]
15. It is important that: [my child has a range of different activities to keep them interested]
16. It is important that: [my child has the opportunity to be creative on CR sessions]
17. It is important that: [my child has the opportunity to take measured risks (i.e. using hand tools such as bow saws and loppers, working around bonfires)]
18. If you have any comments regarding the above statements, please add them here:
19. Can you tell if your child has enjoyed their session with Chiltern Rangers?
20. If yes, how are you able to tell?
21. How important is it that events are free? Using a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (essential)
22. Do you drive or have someone that can drive your child to site?
23. If you didn't have your own transport, is it likely that your child would attend Chiltern Rangers events?
24. Would you consider using public transport to get your child to events?
25. If your child has a special or additional need, tell us what is important to you in terms of making your child feel safe, welcome and confident to take part
26. Where are they now?! It may be a few years since your young person took part in a Chiltern Rangers programme/project. What are they up to now and how far did participating in a inspire or influence their choices for further study, interest or employment
27. What does Chiltern Rangers do well?
28. How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people?

Overview

Number of Responses 34
Survey ran June – July 2025
Age Range 11 to 24

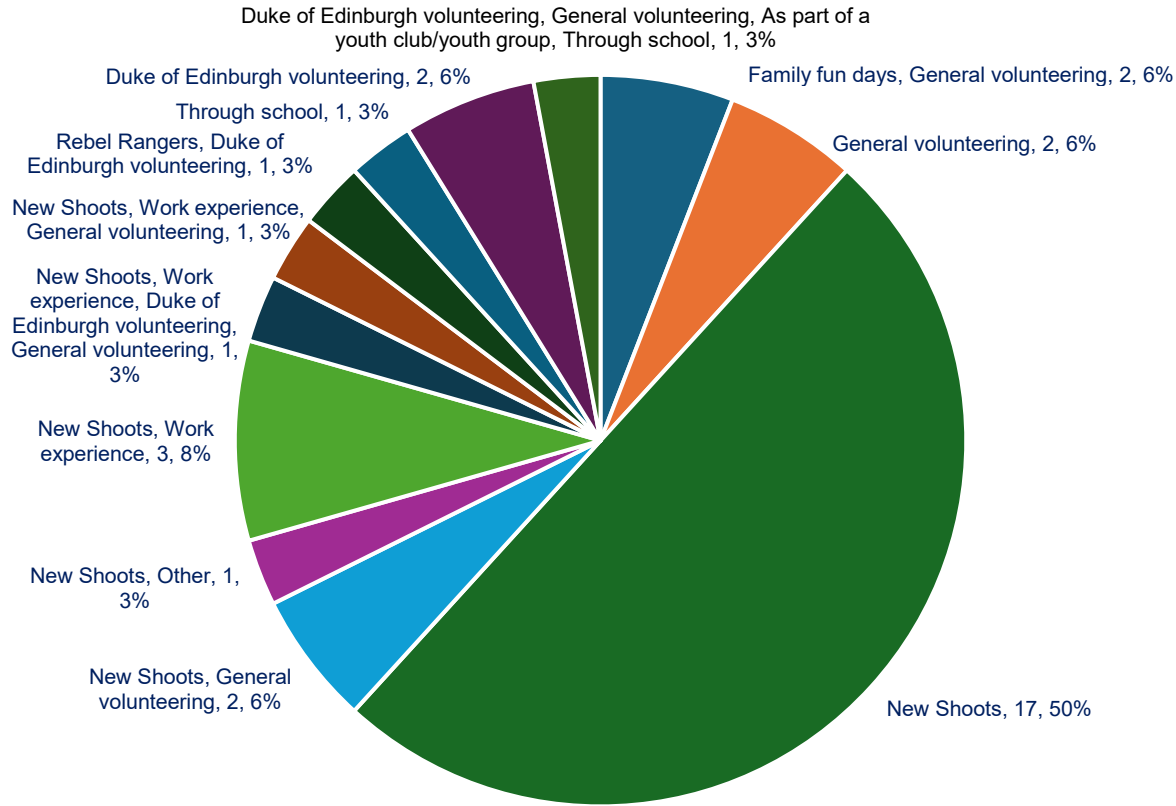
How old is the child in your care?	
11 - 15 years	5
16 - 19 years	17
20 - 24 years	12

How old is the child in your care?



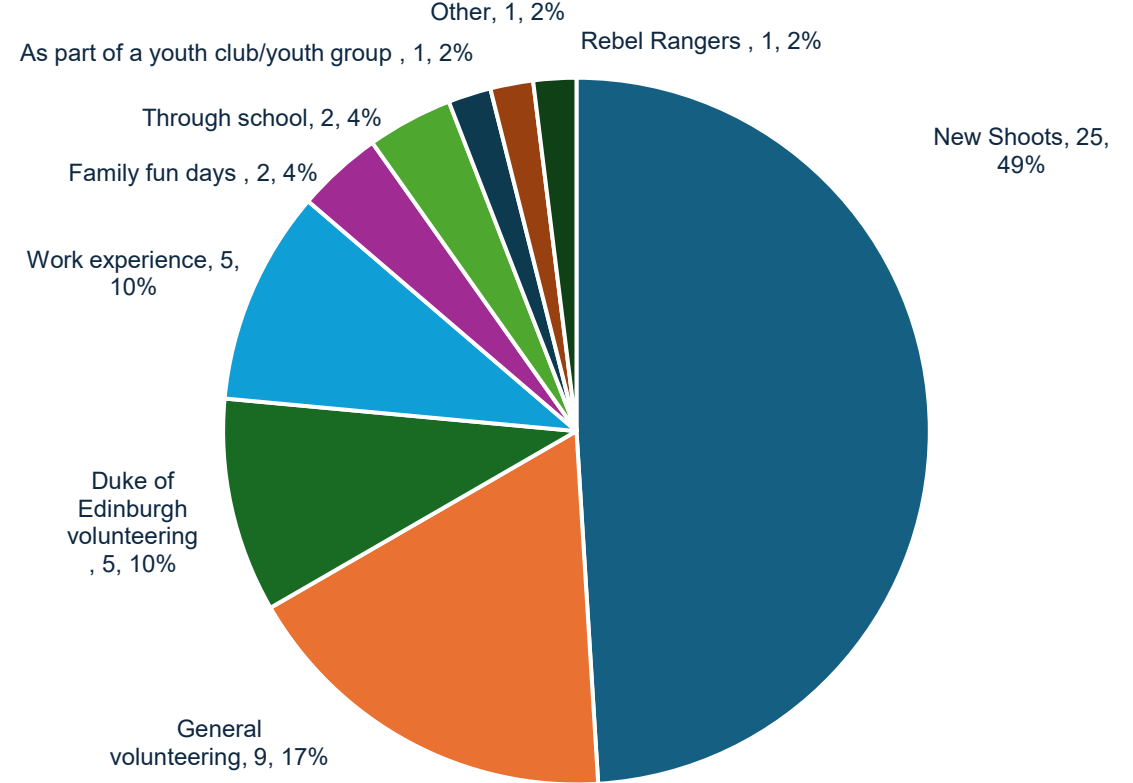
Has your child taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event before?

Responses



Has your child taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event before? If yes, tick all that apply:	
New Shoots	17
New Shoots, Work experience	3
Family fun days, General volunteering	2
General volunteering	2
New Shoots, General volunteering	2
Duke of Edinburgh volunteering	2
New Shoots, Other	1
New Shoots, Work experience, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, General volunteering	1
New Shoots, Work experience, General volunteering	1
Rebel Rangers, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering	1
Through school	1
Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, General volunteering, As part of a youth club/youth group, Through school	1

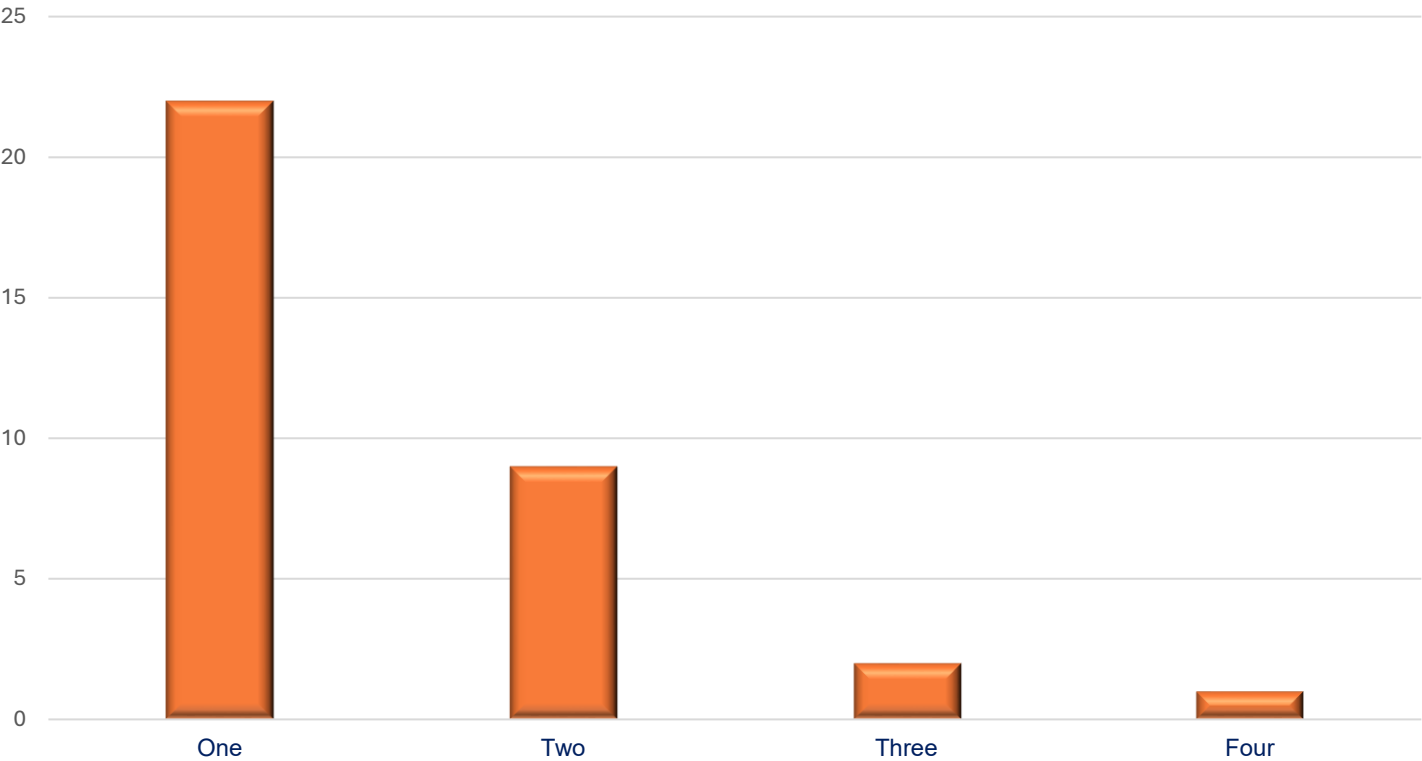
Events mentioned



Has your child taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event before?	
New Shoots	25
General volunteering	9
Duke of Edinburgh volunteering	5
Work experience	5
Family fun days	2
Through school	2
As part of a youth club/youth group	1
Other	1
Rebel Rangers	1

Previous Chiltern Rangers events

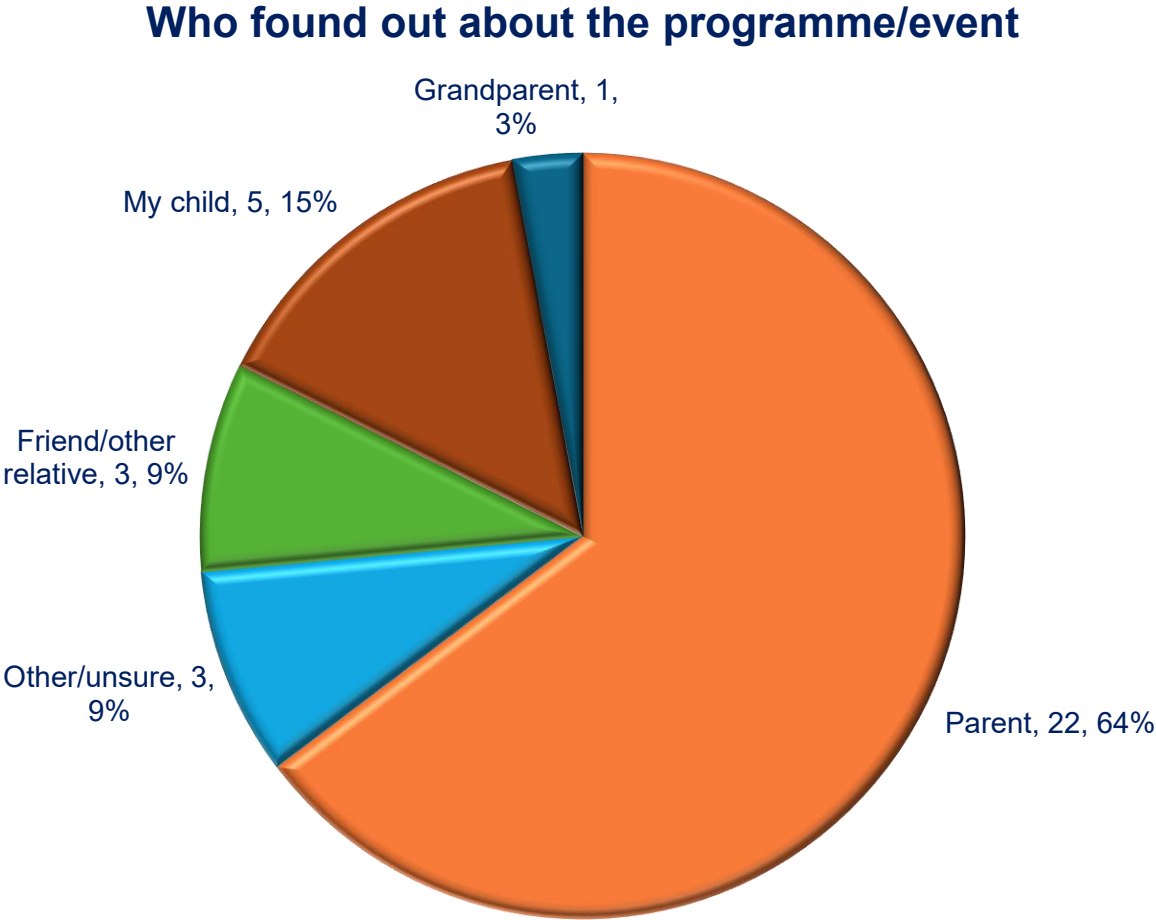
Number of Chiltern Rangers events child has taken part in before



Number of Chiltern Rangers event child has taken part in before	
One	22
Two	9
Three	2
Four	1

If your child has not taken part in a Chiltern Rangers event, why do you think this is?	
Didn't know about it	1
Time restraints	1

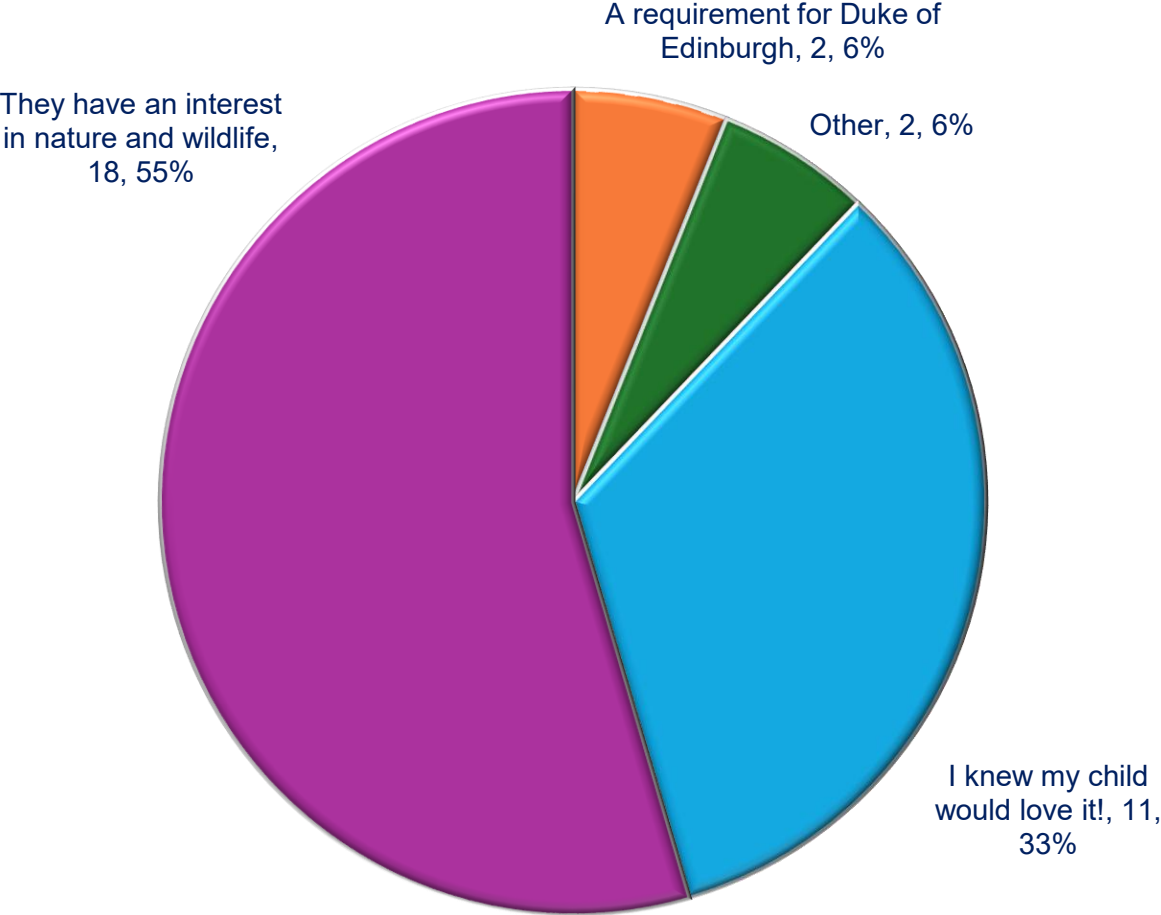
Who found out about the programme/event



Who found out about the programme/event that your child participated in?	
Parent	22
Other/unsure	3
Friend/other relative	3
My child	5
Grandparent	1

What was the main driver for signing up

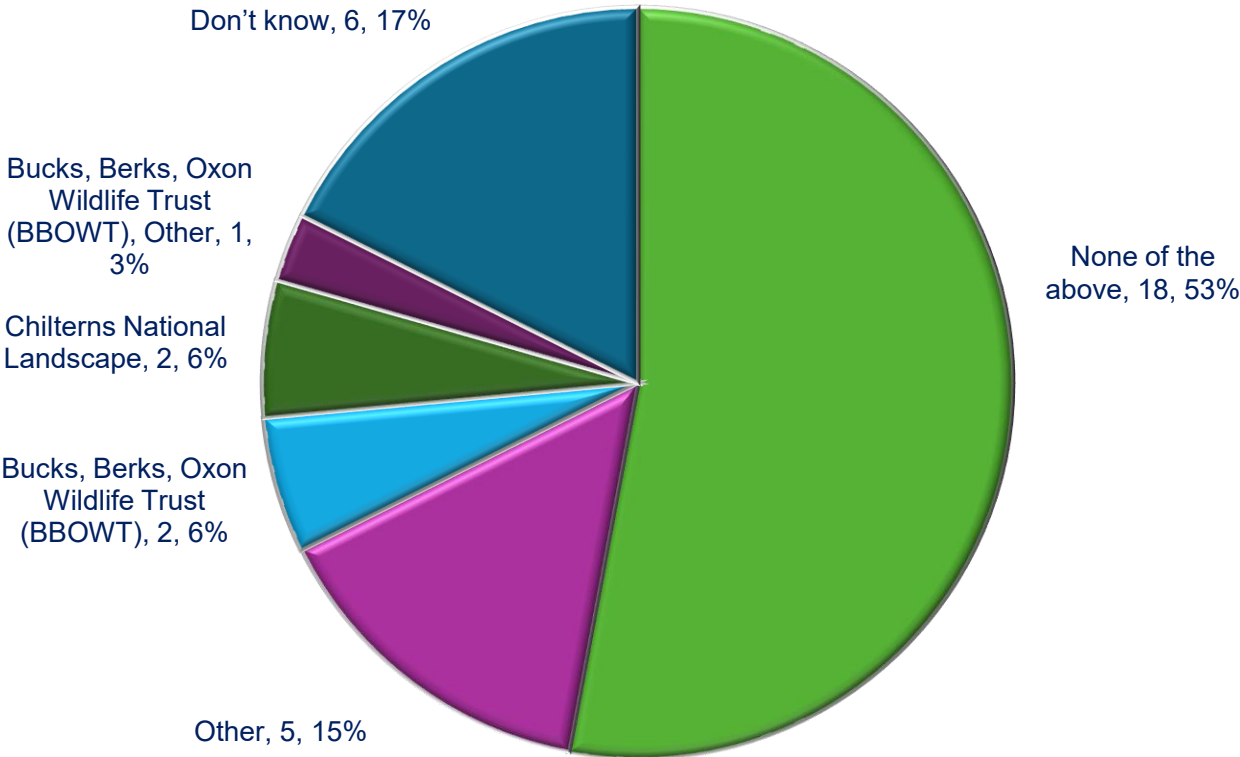
What was the main driver for signing up?



What was the main driver for signing up?	
They have an interest in nature and wildlife	18
I knew my child would love it!	11
A requirement for Duke of Edinburgh	2
Other	2

Has your child taken part in a project for young people

Has your child taken part in a project for young people



Has your child taken part in a project for young people with any of the following organisations:	
Other	5
Bucks, Berks, Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)	2
Chilterns National Landscape	2
Bucks, Berks, Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), Other	1
None of the above	18
Don't know	6

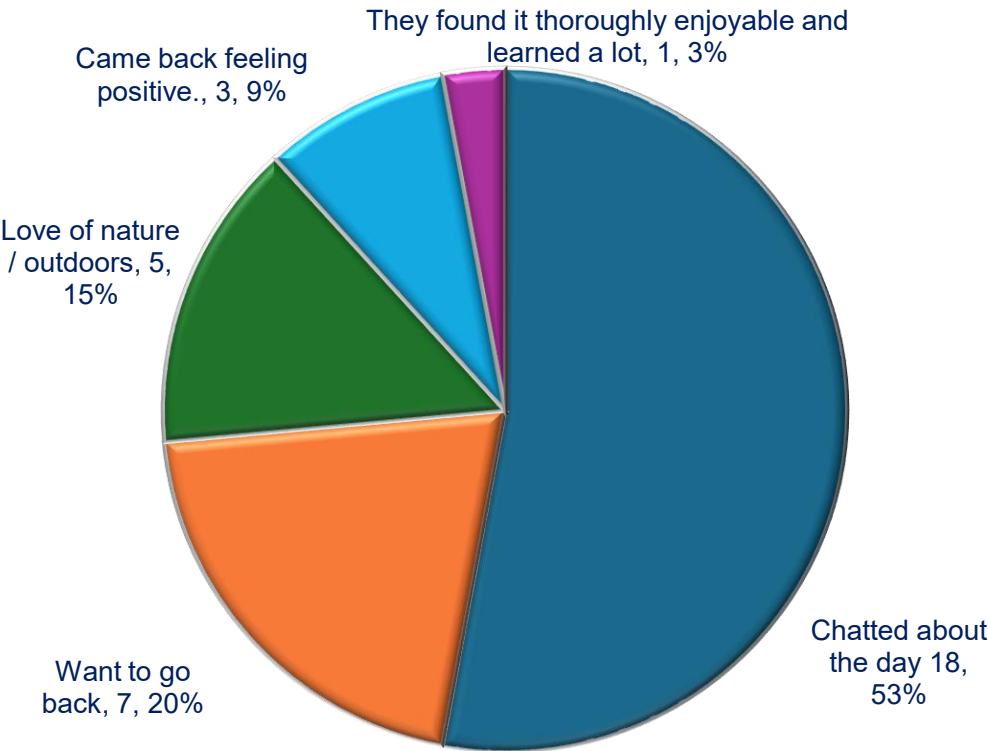
If other, please give details:	
Chiltern society volunteer	1
Chiltern Rangers, Oxford Conservation Volunteers, Butterfly Conservation.	1
I wanted to tick so many boxes for the 'main driver for signing up' section but only had the option of one. All applied, apart from 'needed work experience'.	1
No, but has done D of E volunteering with Chilterns National Landscape, although not an organised project for young people specifically.	1
Scouts, work experience	1
Wycombe Train Station	1
Young scout leader and now a cubs leader as 18 - x runs sessions on wildlife ID, pond dipping and nature walks. Also Ascot wildlife volunteering once a month	1

Can you tell if your child has enjoyed their session with Chiltern Rangers? If yes, how are you able to tell?

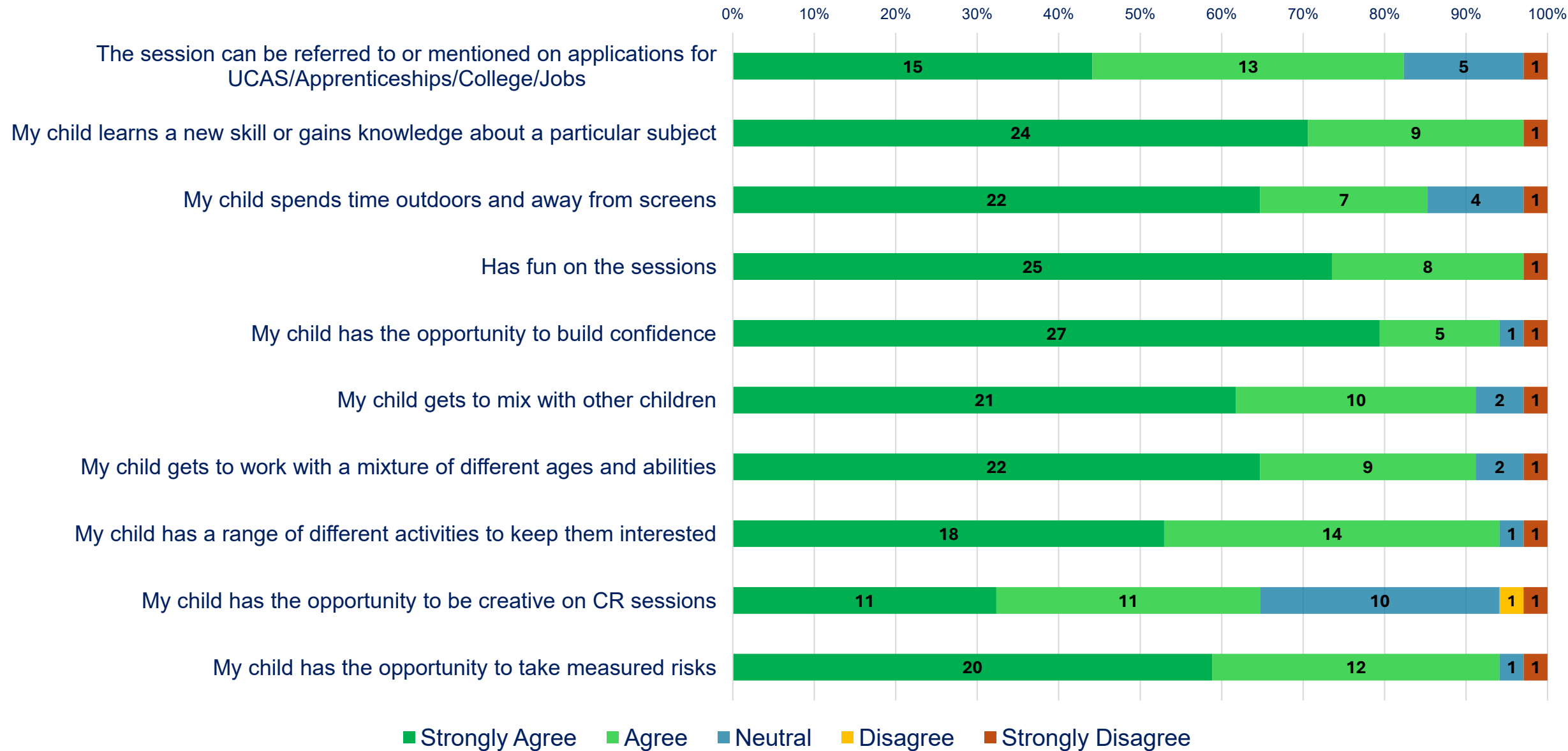
- He tells me about the session afterwards
- They were excited about going to each session
- She speaks so much about what she had learned even after months if we are out and about.
- They told me so! Plus they talked a lot about their experiences at the New Shoots events.
- They were always interesting and engaging. Getting a young person excited about getting up very early on weekends shows how interesting the sessions were!
- He loves spending time in nature, working to improve the environment, and these sessions have expanded his knowledge, skills, ability and experience
- Lots of chatter afterwards about the activities and new facts learned
- Happy, talks about session after with positivity & energy.
- He said so!
- He was quite anxious about each of the sessions and valued the fantastic acceptance from the rangers and always came back feeling positive.
- She was always animated after a session and talked a lot about what she had learned
- Never wanted to miss a session. Abby liked learning about bird and animal species identification.
- He talked about it
- My child enjoys being outdoors and environmental opportunities
- Always keen to talk about what he had done during the session
- Talking about what did, anecdotes about fellow volunteers, smiling, less interested in screen time after.
- We engage in conversation and I tell how passionate and caring she is about the environment
- They found it thoroughly enjoyable and learned a lot. It was instrumental in them choosing volunteering as a career.
- they loved the sessions, learning new skills and being with young people who have similar interests - wildlife and conservation
- He was always happy to go and also went back a year later for a week's work experience
- Talking about the sessions
- They tell me plus as I attend with them I can see they are engaged
- Tells me sometimes, even when doesn't and occasionally moans comes back in lighter mood, flush in her cheeks and able to settle to work etc
- Their excitement telling others abt their experience
- Engagement during and talking about it after
- They want to go back, as soon as possible.
- The chat afterwards
- Talks about the session a lot afterwards. Increased interest in all things nature eg now avid viewer of Spring Watch
- I asked them
- Because they would tell me
- Big smiles and long debrief of the day's activities
- They tell me!
- They would really moan if they didn't!!!
- He told me! And he kept going back

100% entered yes

If yes, how are you able to tell?	
Chat	18
Want to go back	7
Love of nature / outdoors	5
Came back feeling positive.	3
They found it thoroughly enjoyable and learned a lot	1



It is important that:



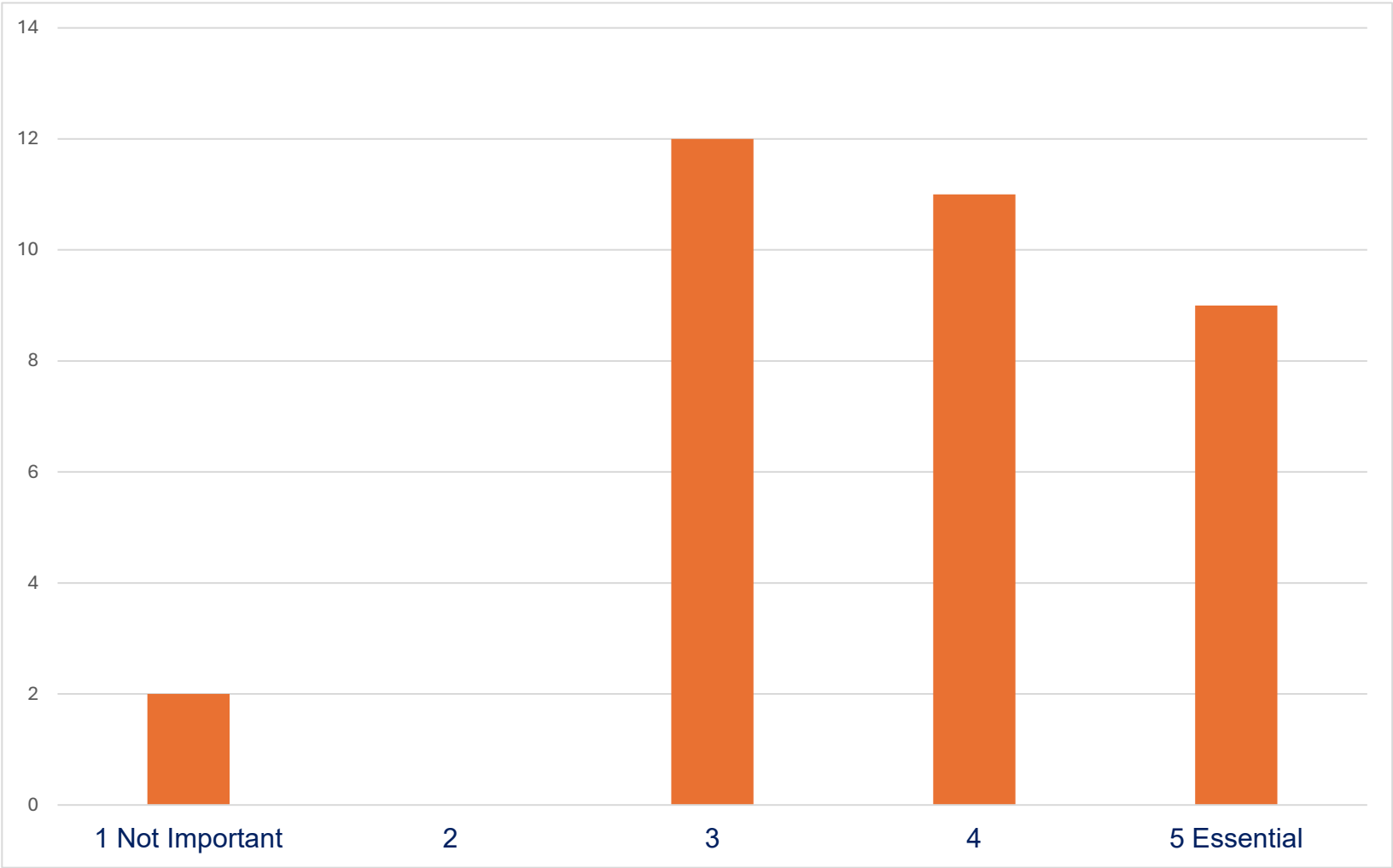
Please note: the same respondent entered Strongly disagree to all of the questions

It is important that:

It is important that:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The session can be referred to or mentioned on applications for UCAS/Apprenticeships/College/Jobs	15	13	5	0	1
My child learns a new skill or gains knowledge about a particular subject	24	9		0	1
My child spends time outdoors and away from screens	22	7	4	0	1
Has fun on the sessions	25	8		0	1
My child has the opportunity to build confidence	27	5	1	0	1
My child gets to mix with other children	21	10	2	0	1
My child gets to work with a mixture of different ages and abilities	22	9	2	0	1
My child has a range of different activities to keep them interested	18	14	1	0	1
My child has the opportunity to be creative on CR sessions	11	11	10	1	1
My child has the opportunity to take measured risks	20	12	1	0	1

How important is it that events are free?

How important is it that events are free? Using a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (essential)	
1 Not Important	2
2	0
3	12
4	11
5 Essential	9

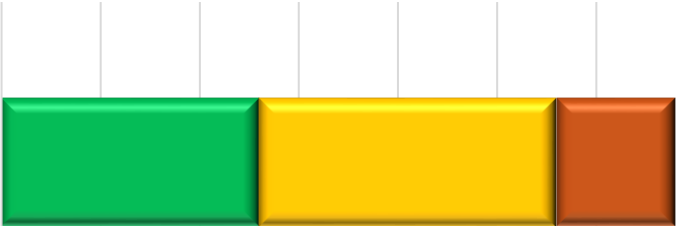


Using a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (essential)

Transport

	Yes	Maybe	No
Do you drive or have someone that can drive your child to site?	33		1
If you didn't have your own transport, is it likely that your child would attend Chiltern Rangers events?	5		29
Would you consider using public transport to get your child to events?	13	15	6

Would you consider using public transport to get your child to events?



If you didn't have your own transport, is it likely that your child would attend Chiltern Rangers events?



Do you drive or have someone that can drive your child to site?

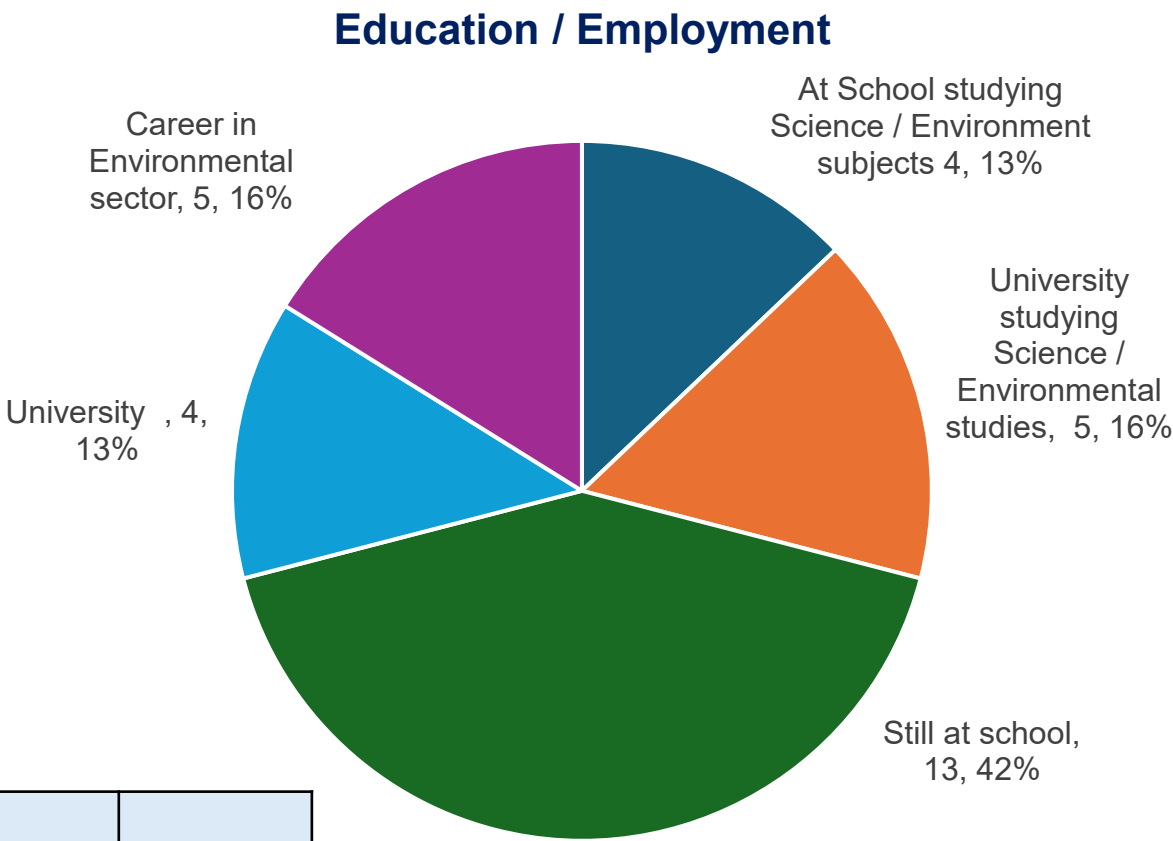


■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No

Where are they now?! What are they up to now and how far did participating in a inspire or influence their choices for further study, interest or employment

- Only 30 responses out of the 34
- 14 mentioned they had carried on with extra curricular environmental activities
- Respondents also mentioned CR had
 - Helped consolidate an existing interest and passion for the subject.
 - Helped to build Confidence
 - Helped consolidate an existing interest and passion for the subject.
 - Helped with University / job applications
 - Improved skills, knowledge and confidence regarding habitats

Education / Employment	
Still at school	13
University studying Science / Environment	5
Career in Environmental sector	5
At School studying Science / Environment	4
University	4



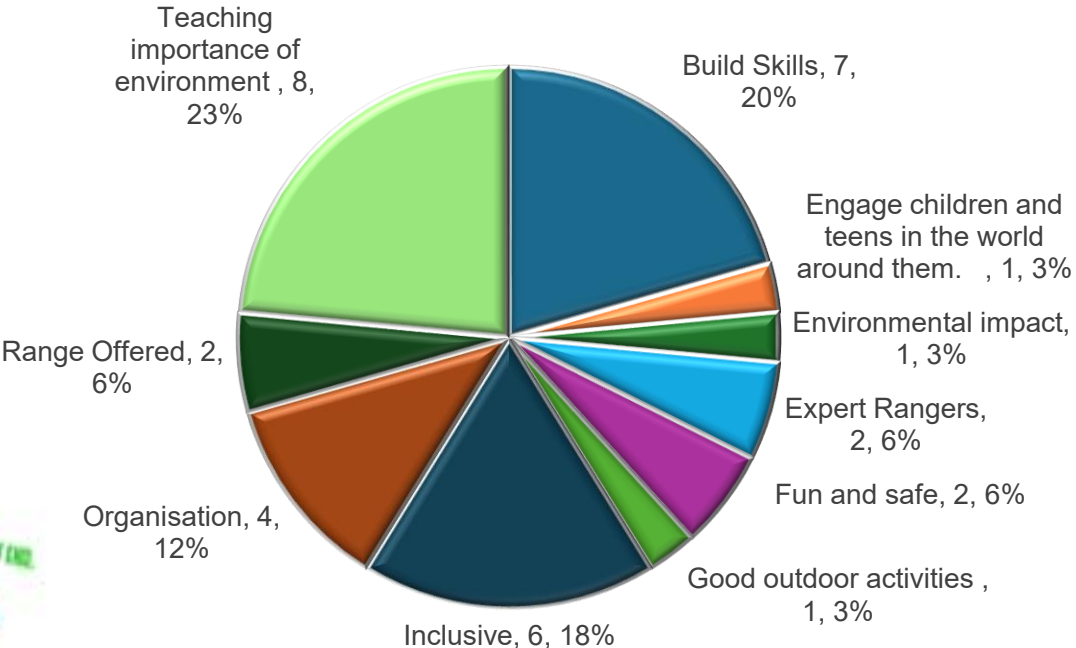
Where are they now?! It may be a few years since your young person took part in a Chiltern Rangers programme/project. What are they up to now and how far did participating in a inspire or influence their choices for further study, interest or employment
• xx is now at Oxford University studying French. He is a member of the RSPB Youth Council and is involved in many environmental groups.
• At 6th form studying Maths, Chem and Biology A Levels hoping to study medicine at university
• Definitely helped! He is currently in New Zealand having spent 1 year in Australia, working on farms and all sorts of other projects including those with wildlife and sustainable food production.
• My son is going to study Earth and Environmental Science. Participating in New Shoots helped consolidate an existing interest and passion for the subject.
• It was a great social experience and a positive step to show he could join a group and do something different to the normal pattern of home and school. This boosted confidence and was great to put on application forms. It has not specifically influenced life choices but provided invaluable opportunities that helped shape the rounded individual he is.
• My daughter is just sitting her A levels. She is going to take a year out but then wants to go to uni to study Human Sciences which is a mix of biology, psychology, geography and sociology. She still enjoys getting outside when she can and taking photos of nature.
• xx is going into yr4 at Exeter uni studying zoology, and just completed a study year abroad in Singapore. CR influenced her decision what to study and where. Also CR gave her skills, knowledge and confidence regarding habitat management and species identification.
• Doing Musical Theatre degree, but it did help him get a place in a very competitive market, by demonstrating that he has outside interests and gave him something else to talk about. Also he was able to use it to get a place on Camp America last summer
• My daughter is about to commence year 3 at university studying Ecology and Conservation. She is really enjoying her degree and definitely planning working in this field in the future. Chiltern New Shoots and Chiltern Rangers really inspired her curiosity for learning and developing her skills in these areas. Thank you so much to all the team for their passion in providing such an amazing opportunity. As a parent it also opened my eyes to the work Chiltern Rangers provides for our local communities which is invaluable.
• He is now doing a physical geography degree at Southampton uni, his dissertation is on the diminishing hedge rows and the impact on butterfly population. This is directly from his butterfly fly survey on chalk downs with new shoots!
• Currently doing A levels so focusing on those, still enjoys nature identifying butterflies and birds etc. Has been asking about nature/conservation clubs on Uni visits
• Has relocated to the Lake District and landed her dream job
• Working for the Cumbrian Wildlife Trust
• Finish in July Btec level 3 animal management extended diploma at Merristwood college. Uni offers for wildlife and conservation foundation degree at Sparsholt and Merristwood but this week she accepted a job as a farm technician at a secondary school looking after the animals. She still volunteers as a cubs leader and runs sessions relating to wildlife, nature and conservation
• Currently doing landscape & construction work while he is pursuing his application with the Army
• University studying Politics.
• We have only been a few times due to other commitments but want to continue to volunteer
• Still at school, helping inform her Further Ed choices
• Waiting for university offer
• My oldest grandson is still at school, but no longer interested in doing stuff with me, but it was great while it lasted. I have already done a couple of events with his little brother and hope to continue to do so.
• N/a
• They are only 14 yrs old and still keen on CR and in FTE
• Interested in further study eg Bio undergraduate, also regular volunteer with local conservation charity
• They have just graduated with a Fashion Degree. The sessions gave her a chance to be creative - she was painting some murals with Dan from Decretate. Her volunteering for a local charity looked good on her CV and she found it easier to be selected for interviews I hope.
• Just finished last session. Hopes to continue volunteering for Chiltern Rangers and perhaps join another group programme.
• Hoping they will continue in the future as they are going to enter year 6 after the summer holidays (they are age 10 twins but that age was not in the selection available but I wanted to give feedback).
• Still at school
• He's an assistant greenkeeper at Wycombe Heights (I appreciate that golf courses are not the favourite places of conservationists). His time with the Chiltern Rangers showed him that he loves working outdoors and with a few, but not too many, people. He learnt that he enjoys physical activity and that that doesn't have to be sport. He really enjoyed being allowed to use tools and how to use them safely. The opportunities he was given by the Chiltern Rangers massively built his confidence and also gave him an amazing CV when it came to looking for a job.

What does Chiltern Rangers do well?

Responses

SHARE THEIR MYRIAD EXPERTISE IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND INSPIRE INTEREST AND A LOVE FOR THE OUTDOORS WITH
PLANNING OF SESSIONS, VARIETY OF CONTENT IN EACH SESSION, ENTHUSIASTIC LEADERS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO
LOOKING AFTER NATURE N WILDLIFE
CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE WORKING ON A PROJECT SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY W
GET PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR ACTIVE AND MEANINGFUL COUNTRYSIDE IMPACT
TEACHING CHILDREN THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT
INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUPPORT ADDITION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS. PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOP
THEY ARE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING. KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CALM.
ACCEPT INDIVIDUALS FOR WHO THEY ARE, SHOW AN INTEREST AND WARMTH TO THOSE AROUND THEM, HAVE A STRUC
LOTS OF RANGE IN EXPERIENCE IN A RANGE OF LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS. A GOOD MIX OF EDUCATIONAL AND PRACTICA
WELL ORGANISED, SUPPORTIVE AND VARIED IDEAS!
INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING TO ALL THE CHILDREN. HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR SUBJE
ARRANGING EXPERTS IN DIFFERENT AREAS (EG BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES) WHO CAN INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE. THE SES
MAKING THE EVENTS ENJOYABLE FOR MY KIDS WHILE THEY ALSO LEARNT SOMETHING - WIN WIN!
GOOD OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
OFFERS THE CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED IN HANDS ON CONSERVATION.
COMMUNICATE, ENCOURAGE, STAY POSITIVE, SECURE INTERESTING EXPERIENCES AND LIFTING OF BINOCULARS, BOW
NEW SHOOT'S PROVIDES AMAZING LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND APPRECIATION OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.
BY PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO BUILD THEIR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND
SPREAD ENTHUSIASM FOR NATURE, LOOK AFTER NATURE
INCLUSIVITY, MAKING IT FUN, BEING SAFE
ALLOWS CHILDREN TO WORK OUTDOORS AROUND CHILDREN THEIR OWN AGE WITHOUT A PARENT.
INSPIRE GENERATIONS, GIVE CONFIDENCE, TEACHES LIFE SKILLS
NEW SHOOT'S WAS WELL ORGANISED AND MY DAUGHTER REALLY ENJOYED IT ALTHOUGH SHE WAS REALLY EXHAUSTED AF
ENGAGE CHILDREN AND TEENS IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM.
ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING. ORGANISATION, COMMUNICATION. VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, QUALITY OF SESSIONS, CARE
KNOWLEDGEABLE, ENTHUSIASTIC, ENGAGING WORK SESSIONS.
AMAZING VARIETY OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND HANDS ON, PRACTICAL CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES IN VARI

What does Chiltern Rangers do well? Key Responses



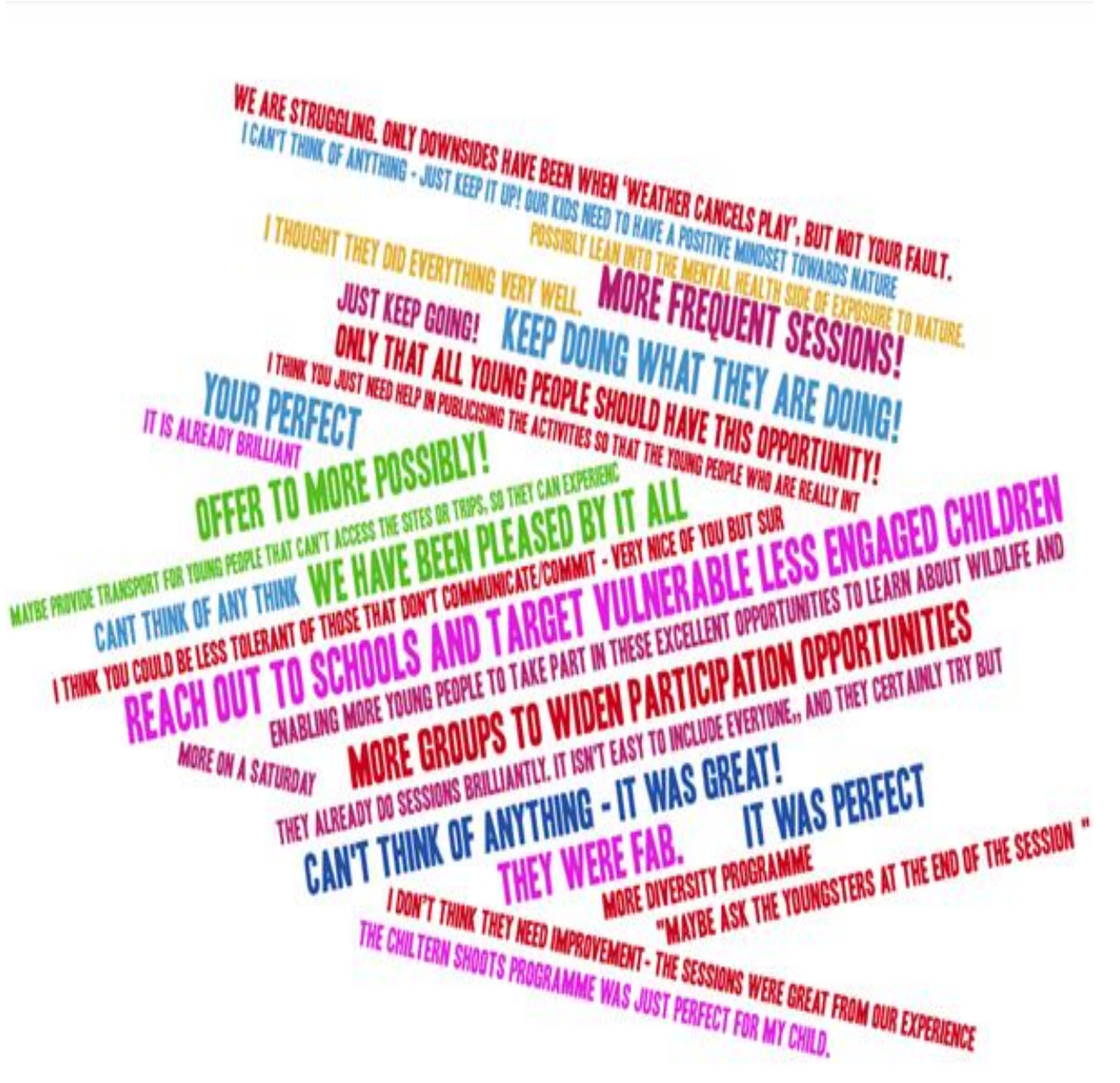
What does Chiltern Rangers do well? Key Responses	
Teaching importance of environment	8
Build Skills	7
Inclusive	6
Organisation	4
Expert Rangers	2
Fun and safe	2
Range Offered	2
Engage children and teens in the world around them.	1
Environmental impact	1
Good outdoor activities	1

What does Chiltern Rangers do well?



How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people?

Responses
• How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people?
• Reach out to schools and target vulnerable less engaged children
• We have been pleased by it all
• Enabling more young people to take part in these excellent opportunities to learn about wildlife and nature.
• Keep doing what they are doing!
• More groups to widen participation opportunities
• They already do sessions brilliantly. It isn't easy to include everyone,, and they certainly try but it is ok if some find it's not for them, as long as they are given a fair chance.
• Only that All young people should have this opportunity!
• They were fab.
• I think you just need help in publicising the activities so that the young people who are really interested in looking after the planet find out about your work
• More frequent sessions!
• Can't think of anything - it was great!
• Maybe provide transport for young people that can't access the sites or trips, so they can experience these opportunities
• Offer to more possibly!
• Possibly lean into the mental health side of exposure to nature.
• Your perfect
• It was perfect
• I thought they did everything very well.
• Just keep going!
• I think you could be less tolerant of those that don't communicate/commit - very nice of you but sure frustrating and important lesson for young people that not ok, privileged to get place etc
• More diversity programme
• Maybe ask the youngsters at the end of the session
• it is already brilliant
• We are struggling. Only downsides have been when 'weather cancels play', but not your fault.
• More on a Saturday
• Cant think of any think
• The Chiltern shoots programme was just perfect for my child.
• I can't think of anything - just keep it up! Our kids need to have a positive mindset towards nature, climate and the impact they can have on it for their wellbeing and the future of the planet.
• I don't think they need improvement- the sessions were great from our experience



How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people?

How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people? Key Responses	
Pleased by it all	13
All young people should have this opportunity!	2
Ask the youngsters at the end of the session	1
Enabling more young people to take part in these excellent opportunities to learn about wildlife and nature.	1
I think you could be less tolerant of those that don't communicate/commit	1
Increased publicity	1
It isn't easy to include everyone, and they certainly try	1
Lean into the mental health side of exposure to nature.	1
Maybe provide transport	1
More diversity programme	1
More frequent sessions!	1
More groups to widen participation opportunities	1
More on a Saturday	1
Reach out to schools and target vulnerable less engaged children	1

How do you think Chiltern Rangers can improve sessions for young people? Key Responses

