**TEENS GIVE PARENTS’ BANK BALANCES SUMMER BLUES**

A poll of 1,000 parents of 16-17 year olds found entertainment for just one week during the summer holidays will cost an average of £103.11 per child.

Added up over the standard six weeks of summer holiday, that comes to a whopping £618.66 for each child in the family, with many parents believing that up to 20 percent of their household income will be spent on their teens over the summer break.

The study was conducted by the National Citizen Service (NCS), a three to four week summer programme that, for just £50, helps 16-17 year olds gain confidence, build life skills and become more active citizens in their communities.

When asked to compare with the rest of the year, 73 percent of parents said they spend more on entertaining teens in the summer than any other time of year.

In fact, 58 percent of parents admitted to worrying about having enough money to entertain their teens over the summer holidays and a quarter (25%) said they believe they spend ‘too much’ cash on keeping their teens entertained during the long break.

The research also found that parents’ top worry is that their teens will waste their summers scrolling through social media (45%), with over half of parents (53%) worried their teens will spend their time off school being unproductive.

**An NCS spokesperson said:** *“As the long summer holidays approach, parents are keen to see their teens move away from their screens and find activities which won’t break the bank, but will ensure they continue learning and developing during their time off.*

*“The NCS programme costs just £50, with bursaries available upon request. Two weeks are spent living away from home, and that £50 covers all meals, accommodation and activities.*

*“With summer holidays set to cost parents over £100 per week per child, this once-in-a-lifetime experience will not only save you money, but, most importantly, your teen will build skills to aid their future success.”*

Seven in 10 Brits report their teens are likely to complain about being bored during the summer holidays. On average, they’re likely to speak the two dreaded words – “I’m bored” less than 14 days into their break from school.

But they’re not just being difficult; the study also polled 1,000 teens aged 16-17, and found 36 per cent wish their parents would entertain them more when they’re off school.

The NCS spokesperson continued: *“There are still places available for 16 and 17 year olds across the country to take part in the programme. To find out more and sign your teen up, go to* [*www.ncsyes.co.uk*](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/)*”*

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**Contact**

For further information please contact:

NCS Media Team

[media@ncstrust.co.uk](mailto:media@ncstrust.co.uk)

**About NCS**

NCS is a government backed programme established in 2011 to help build a more cohesive, mobile and engaged society. By bringing together young people from different backgrounds for a unique shared experience, NCS helps them to become better individuals, and in turn better citizens.

NCS is open to 16 and 17 year-olds across England and Northern Ireland. The two to four week programme, which takes place in school holidays, includes outdoor team-building exercises, a residential for participants to learn ‘life skills’, a community-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event.

To date:

* Almost 500,000 young people have taken part
* Twelve million hours of community action have been completed
* For every £1 spent, NCS’ 2016 summer programme delivered between £1.15 and £2.42 of benefits back to society

It costs participants just £50 or less to take part in NCS and bursaries are available on a case by case basis. Support is provided for young people with additional needs.

To find out more visit [NCSyes.co.uk](http://ncsyes.co.uk/).

**About NCS Trust**

National Citizen Service Trust is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter and established to shape, support, champion and lead a thriving National Citizen Service.

National Citizen Service Trust is registered in England and Wales with Royal Charter Body number RC000894. Our registered office is at The Pembroke Building, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London, W14 8DG.