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**NCS Trust announces repurposing of Summer 2020 programme
Alternative 2020 NCS experience to be launched**

Bringing young people together in a residential setting away from home is at the heart of the NCS programme. Given the uncertainty about how long social distancing restrictions will be in place, it is sadly not possible for the 2020 summer programme to take place in its traditional format.

Refund options will be offered to all participants who have signed up for the Summer 2020 programme to date.

With up to 100,000 young people expected to take part in the UK's flagship youth programme, the Trust is determined that teens don't completely miss out on their NCS experience.

Participants who were expecting to take part this summer will have the opportunity to be part of an alternative *free* NCS 2020. We are urgently developing the details of the alternative offer with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and NCS suppliers, which could include:

STAYING CONNECTED: delivery of content through NCS digital channels, focussing on the skills and life lessons not learnt in the classroom, taking part whilst lockdown and social distancing continue and we all learn to adapt to a new way of living.

KEEP DOING GOOD: supporting the young people signed up for Summer 2020, alongside NCS graduates and alumni, to mobilise young volunteers to help the country get back on its feet as self distancing guidelines begin to be lifted, restoring and reconstructing our society as we begin to adapt to a new normal.

MOVING FORWARDS: the full NCS experience will be available in 2021 and will play a key part in giving young people the chance to enjoy a resumed sense of freedom and to forge new friendships.

The Trust will also continue to support its school partners over the coming months through its network, staff experience and capability to develop initiatives that they will find supportive.

NCS Trust CEO Mark Gifford explained: “We completely understand the disappointment this will cause to teenagers, parents and schools throughout the country. But we’re absolutely committed to our vision of bringing young people together and supporting them to thrive as connected, confident and caring citizens.

“We believe in the power of young people to help themselves and others in times of crisis, and so through our Staying Connected digital content we’ll be equipping them with the necessary skills, advice and guidance to be both active in their local communities and a leading force in our nation’s recovery from Covid-19.

“We have the opportunity to engage with young people in a different way, creating the chance for them to still have a summer that turns ‘No You Can’t’ into ‘No We Can’. Never has that can-do attitude been more needed by our country than it is today.”

Minister for Civil Society, Baroness Barran said: “It is vital we continue to support young people, particularly in these unprecedented times. I am pleased that the NCS will play its part but it is right that it makes changes to its summer programme as keeping people healthy is our absolute priority.

"I hope the young people affected will understand why this decision has been made. I encourage them and others to take part in the exciting, alternative options from the NCS in the coming months."

All participants will be contacted automatically about their refund options over the coming weeks. There is no need to contact NCS to apply for one.

Confirmation about how young people can take part in NCS in the future will be provided online shortly.

Anyone who was expecting to take part in NCS this summer and has a question for the Trust should go to the NCS website: <https://wearencs.com/>

ENDS

For more information please contact Charlotte Speedy:
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About NCS

NCS is an experience like no other. Designed for 16-17 year olds across England and Northern Ireland, NCS is a youth programme that runs every summer and autumn, during school holidays. Teens get the opportunity to mix with a new crowd, live away from home for a while, take on new challenges and in the process build lifelong friendships.

The programme is all about emboldening young people – by giving them a taste of independence and equipping them with essential skills for life. NCSers then get a chance to take these new-found skills for a test-run in their local community.

NCS is dedicated to providing a platform to make sure young people are heard and can engage with their community by completing passion projects, raising awareness and providing solutions to the issues they care about.

The experience might last just a few weeks, but the impact? That lasts a lot longer. Since 2009 nearly 600,000 young people have taken part in NCS, completing over 14.5 million hours of community action, and gaining priceless life experiences.

NCS costs no more than £50 - with bursaries and support for those with special educational needs or disabilities also available. NCS's mission is to give every young person the life-changing experience.

To find out more visit wearencs.com

Visit NCS social media platforms on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

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.

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