



Kacper Kazaniecki

NCS Pastoral Team Leader

Kacper signed up to the Summer course which took place in August. He was allocated to Charlie team with his friends. Week one was a residential camping trip in Exmoor which was filled with challenging activities including coasteering, quad biking and paintballing. From the beginning, Kacper got stuck into all the activities with a positive attitude; always encouraging others willing to try new things.

During week one Kacper and his friends were very proactive and approached me talking about ideas for the Social Action Project which was taking place in weeks three and four.

Starting the second week residential in the Bournemouth University Halls Kacper showed great skills planning and buying food for the week and allocating daily tasks. Kacper showed great leadership skills that came naturally to him. He would go above and beyond what was asked of him; always involved even passing on his contact details to the local youth workers to get involved in community projects.

Kacper and his team chose the New Leaf Allotment as their social action project for weeks three and four. This was a project to transform an outside classroom into a calm learning space for its visitors. The service users include adults with dementia and mental health issues as well as young people and children with additional learning needs. The project also involved fundraising to sustain the project in the future. The money will be used to buy equipment and tools to maintain the area. Kacper's fundraising activities included making cakes to sell to the other NCS teams and he also took part in a 10 mile sponsored walk. The team raised over £200 for the New Leaf Allotment.

During week four they put their plan into action to transform the area of woodland to the outside classroom they are proud of today. The manager of the project was overwhelmed by the hard work and commitment he received from Kacper and his team.

Kacper was keen to perform at the graduation event with a friend; playing guitar and singing. It was an amazing evening of celebration with over 600 people attending.

Kacper stood out throughout the course with his hard work and passion to make a difference. It was because of his outstanding leadership that I nominated him to apply to become an NCS Leader. After his performance at graduation, Kacper took to the stage to record his NCS Leaders video which was a requirement of the selection process. He did this with the help of the audience which made his video stand out to the NCS Trust. Consequently, he was successful in securing a place on the course. He took part in a week residential in London with the other chosen Leaders from across the country and wrote a blog about his experiences. We are pleased to have Kacper on our Youth Board and working with us on future events.

Kerry Pedder – Pastoral Team Leader