



# YOUNG LEADERS COURSE



A COURSE IN CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP SKILLS  
FOR YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS AGED 16-24





## ABOUT BTO YOUTH

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BTO Youth is the youth branch of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). BTO is a UK charity focusing on understanding birds and, in particular, how and why bird populations are changing. Our vision is of a world where people are inspired by birds and informed by science. Our Youth programme aims to engage young people with nature and science in a safe, inclusive and accessible way.



## ABOUT SBO

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Spurn Bird Observatory was founded in 1945 to monitor migration through this hotspot on the East Yorkshire Coast. We have hostel style accommodation at the Observatory for up to 13 people and employ a full time Warden who regularly catches birds as part of the BTO ringing scheme. During the summer months we employ several wardens to monitor the Little Tern colony and we have a wide range of volunteers monitoring the migration in the area.



## WHY TAKE THE COURSE?

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The Young Leaders course is aimed at those young people who want to make a difference for the natural world and for people. The course focuses on skills that will help you advance as a leader. These include practical skills, such as how to run successful guided activities or meetings, but also theoretical skills such as management styles and partnership working.

The programme will see you meet a variety of leaders from across the ornithological sector. The course will be hosted by a mixture of staff from BTO Youth and Spurn Bird Observatory. The programme may change depending on weather, but will include sessions on:

**Negotiating and influencing;** how to use a leadership position to affect positive change.

**Guiding events;** from bird walks to debates, how do you run and organise a safe and inclusive event?

**Networking;** put into practice some of the theory around networking in an interactive activity.

**Building a community;** how do you bring together a variety of stakeholders for the greater good?

**Working in partnership;** understanding the importance of working together in the sector.

**Practical skills;** such as running successful meetings, making presentations, and writing CVs.

## HOW TO APPLY

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Just follow the instructions on the form! You can either complete it digitally, or print it and send it back. **Think outside the box; the leader you choose, for example, does not have to be a conservationist.** If you need any help with your application you can always email us.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

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The course is open to young people, resident in the UK, who are:

- At the time of the course, 16 to 24 (inclusive) years old.
- Passionate about making a positive difference in the conservation and/or environmental sector.





# WHERE AND WHEN IS THE COURSE?

The course will take place at the amazing Spurn Bird Observatory. The course will start on **Wednesday 10 August at 12:00**. We advise that you arrive a bit before then and staff will be available from 11:00 onwards to welcome you on site. The programme will run until **14:00 on Saturday 13 August**. The Observatory is booked for a private event from 16:00 onwards so we ask that you make sure to leave the Observatory before then.

If you are travelling from further afield to attend the course, we may be able to reserve a bed for you in the Observatory for the evening of the 9th of August. If this would be helpful for you, please indicate this on the application form, but note that we can only accommodate those that could not feasibly travel down in time for the 12:00 start on the Wednesday.





## COST + EQUIPMENT

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The course is completely **free of charge**. It is important to us that anyone can access the resources they need to develop their leadership skills. We do ask that, by applying, you commit to taking your place if you are successful in your application as we will have fewer spaces than applicants.

You do not need to bring much to the course; you may find it helpful to bring a **laptop** if you have one, and **binoculars** as it is a fantastic place for birdwatching. We will provide notebooks, pens, and spare binoculars as well. Please note this is **not** a birdwatching course, and so this will not be the focus of the activities.

## GETTING TO SPURN

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Spurn is reachable by public transport via Hull, taking the bus to either Patrington or Easington. There is also ample parking for those driving.

If travel expenses are a barrier to you, please indicate this on your application. We have a limited number of travel bursaries available.

## ACCOMMODATION

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Accommodation will be in the Observatory, which has luxury shared dormitories available. You will be required to share with up to three other course members. At least one fully DBS-checked staff member will be in the building at all times overnight.



# SAFEGUARDING

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Safeguarding participants is of paramount importance to us. All of our core staff will have completed safeguarding training and will be DBS checked and cleared. A Designated Safeguarding Lead will be present. BTO's Safeguarding Policy can be found on our website or by email our team at [youth@bto.org](mailto:youth@bto.org). We will also complete a full risk assessment before the start of course, including a COVID-19 risk assessment taking into consideration the most current advice from Government.

# ACCESSIBILITY

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We are committed to making this course as accessible as possible. Our ambition is to support all aspiring young leaders to participate in the course if they wish to. If you have any accessibility requirements or concerns you would like to discuss, please email us at [youth@bto.org](mailto:youth@bto.org).

# INCLUSIVITY

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We want our camps to be a safe space for all participants, and so we ask everyone to abide by our Code of Conduct which will be shared in advance. **You do not need to be an experienced "birder"** or have spent lots of time in nature to apply, nor do you need leadership experience. **We especially welcome applications from young women, and young people from underrepresented groups.**





# YOUR APPLICATION

Fill in this form (with your parent(s)/carer(s) if you are under 18) and make sure you fill in all parts.

## YOUR INFORMATION

**Full name:**

**Date of birth:**

**Gender:** Female Male Non-binary

Prefer to self-describe

**Pronouns:**

**Email address:**

**Post code:**

We use this information to determine your travel needs.

**Occupation:**

For example, are you a full-time student or do you have a job?

**Do you have any accessibility needs?**

For example, mobility issues that prevent you from walking longer distances.

**Do you have any other needs?**

This may include religious needs, learning needs, or supporting needs.







## **YOUR PARENT(S)/CARER(S)' INFORMATION (if you are under 18)**

**Full name:**

**Relationship to the applicant:**

**Email address:**

**Phone number:**

**Consent:**

By ticking the consent box I give BTO permission to store the data provided here as in line with [BTO's privacy policy](#).

## **THE COURSE**

**Please confirm that you are available for the full duration of the course.**

I am available for the full duration of the course

**How do you plan to travel to the course?**

Public transport

Driving

Being picked up / dropped off

Other (please specify)

**Would you like to be considered for a travel bursary?**

Yes

No

**Do you need accommodation for the evening before the course (9th August)?**

Yes

No

**Is there any reason you would not be able or comfortable to share accommodation?**

The course is based on shared accommodation, and we will allocate participants to shared rooms based on gender and age. In exceptional circumstances we may be able to offer alternative accommodation.



## WHY YOU WANT TO COME TO THE COURSE

**Tell us what you hope to learn on the course, and how you would apply this in your daily life. (350 words max.)**



**Who is a leader who inspires you, and why?** (250 words max.)

**Have you been in a position of leadership before? If yes, what did you enjoy and what did you find challenging?** (250 words max. If you have not been in a position of leadership before, that is OK; just leave this blank!)





## EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

This form is **optional** to fill in, but will help us better understand who is applying to our events. This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be stored after the course.

**Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself? Please select all that apply.**

Man (including trans man) ☐ Woman (including trans woman) ☐

Non-binary ☐ I prefer to self-describe ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

**Does the gender you live in match the gender you were assigned at birth?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

**Which of these best describes your ethnicity?**

Asian / Asian British - Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - British	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - African	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - British	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mixed / multiple ethnic groups - Any other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Did you come to the UK as a refugee or asylum seeker?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

**Have you ever been, or are you, in local authority care??**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

**What is your age?**

**Did you receive free school meals at any point during your secondary education?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't know ☐

**Which type of school did you attend for the majority of your time aged 10–18?**

Non-selective state-run or state funded school / college ☐

Selective state-run or state funded school / college ☐

Independent / private or fee paying school / college ☐

Attended school outside the UK ☐

Don't know ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

**How do you define your sexual orientation? Please elect all that apply.**

Bi/bisexual ☐

Gay/lesbian ☐

Heterosexual/straight ☐

Queer ☐

Prefer to self-describe ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

**Do you consider yourself to have a specific learning disability, other disability, impairment, long-term illness or health condition?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't know ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

**If yes, please describe in the space below.**

**Which of the following best describes your religion, faith or belief?**

Buddhist ☐

Christian ☐

Hindu ☐

Jewish ☐

Muslim ☐

Sikh ☐

Atheist ☐

Any other ☐

None ☐

Prefer not to say ☐



# MADE POSSIBLE BY

This course and its contents are made possible by the generous support (or sponsored by) of the Cameron Besselka Trust.

## Cameron Besselka Trust

The Cameron Besselka Trust is a charity that has been set up in Cameron's memory to inspire young people to love and appreciate animals, in particular birds, nature, and our environment. By experiencing the outdoors first hand, teenagers can connect with nature and make a difference to our planet.



[www.cameronbesselka.com](http://www.cameronbesselka.com)

Parts of the logistics for the course are also funded by Opticron and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

## Opticron

Opticron has supported BTO Youth since it started, including by their generous support of the Equipment Donation Scheme. For the Young Leaders Course they have given their support towards travel bursaries.

## Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Part of the course is funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

