



ZACH HAYNES

AGE: 14 years old FROM: England

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: COMMUNICATION | HOPE/OPTIMISM | CONFIDENCE | CITIZENSHIP | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION

"I have read lots about how EU laws are very good at protecting wildlife and we might lose these upon leaving the EU, so I have started a petition asking the government to keep these laws, or make better ones, when we leave the EU."

Realising I am one of few young people who cares about wildlife and the environment inspires me to take social action. Modern day life disconnects people from nature and unless they enjoy and care about it they will not look after it. I started blogging and using social media aged 10 to share my love of nature and inspire others to care for it. This led to me meeting lots of people and volunteering to help at nature reserves, with conservation tasks such as bird-ringing, and take part in projects to understand what is happening to local wildlife. I also fundraise for local and national charities.

I do social action with lots of organisations including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and independently. I have read lots about how EU laws are very good at protecting wildlife and we might lose these upon leaving the EU, so I have started a petition asking the government to keep these laws, or make better ones, when we leave the EU. I also write to my local MP and the Prime Minister on these issues.

I have also written articles, given radio interviews and talks and contribute to workshops around how nature organisations can better engage young people.

I am currently fundraising for the British Trust for Ornithology Owl appeal. As Youth Patron of The Wild Watch project I have given talks and made a film to engage school children with nature. I was also lucky to be asked to join Chris Packham's UK Bioblitz project as a young presenter. Following this, I am presenting the People's Manifesto for Wildlife to Number 10, as part of the People's Walk for Wildlife.

It can be challenging doing social action in my area as farming is not as sustainable as it could be, and there is support for hunting. My peers don't always support my work as they don't love nature. But I have found support on social media and learnt that by joining up with others we can make a big difference.

