

Luke Taylor

Age: 20
Location: West Lothian

 @countryside_otaku_ranger

Main Challenges



Encouraging young people into land-based careers



Environment

Rural Youth Project Involvement

Luke was a delegate at the Rural Youth Project Ideas Festival in 2019 and is a regular blogger.

“The Rural Youth Project has encouraged me to think differently about my own aspirations and goals and has shown me that once I have an idea that it is achievable and I have the support to accomplish it.”

- Luke Taylor



Image: Rural Youth Project

Background

Luke Taylor has lived and worked in West Lothian for most of his life.

After a week of work experience with his local ranger service, Luke decided to leave school and begin a three-year long apprenticeship which he has now completed.

“I have been working as a ranger now for the past 3 years and over that time my job has revolved around looking after the countryside and encouraging people to get outdoors and enjoy nature.”

Luke’s passion for rangers and land-based industries is evident.

“My role as a ranger has allowed me to make that connection to nature that I never really had growing up. I think because I am not from a city or the countryside it has allowed me to enjoy my job more because of the places it can take me, be that country parks, hillsides, seashores or the middle of Edinburgh. Rangering allows me to connect with both the land and its people, providing a service to protect, sustain and educate people about everything outdoors. Ranger services are all over Scotland, the UK and the world who all work towards to same global goal. I thoroughly enjoy what I do and I hope my passion for rangering can encourage others as well, in particular people my age.”

With the unfortunate decline of Ranger Services across Scotland, Luke recognises that there are major challenges with lack of publicity and an interest from young people.

“I think ranger services face the problem that the majority of the people they interact with and provide a service for are either not aware they exist or know what a ranger does.



Image: Rural Youth Project

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Background

“We provide education to thousands of schools and children every year but one of the few things I see is people entering rangership from a young age. I feel moving forward we need to provide better land-based career advice to kids at secondary schools when they are starting to think about what jobs they want to do in the future. One of the ways we can hopefully start to raise awareness is through apprenticeships and media coverage of what ranger services do.

“Access is a growing problem across Scotland for lots of land-based industries and one of the roles of a ranger has is to educate, enforce and promote responsible usage of outdoor spaces. Dog worrying and access to farmland has always been an issue and that is why it is crucial that ranger services and access wardens coordinate their efforts with farmers to make paths & farmland safe for users and livestock where appropriate.”

As a solution, Luke has created a new podcast titled [The Rambling Ranger](#).

“I wanted to create something that allowed me the freedom to talk about my job as a ranger. Having been exposed to The Rural Youth Project podcast I decided I wanted to create my own. I enjoy talking to people, and doing interviews felt quite natural. The podcast gives me an opportunity to speak to lots of different people and share their stories which have been influential to me. rangers are not that widely known about or understood, so by talking to rangers themselves I hope people will get a better understanding first hand.

“I never pictured myself ever hosting something like a podcast but I am enjoying the experience so far. I have been an influencer for my industry and Rangers for over a year now and I hope to continue doing so in every way I can.”

Solutions

1. Social Media: Luke started using social media to share his work as a Ranger and his own story in the hope's to educate and inspire others.
2. Podcast: As a flow on effect from use of social media, Luke decided to make a podcast to increase publicity for the industry.
3. Speaking to school students: In the off season, Luke volunteers his time to speak to school children about rangership and attends career fairs to raise the profile of the industry.



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