

# Take 5

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Every Child Matters *In Lincolnshire*



**This issue contains a special eight page supplement celebrating youth volunteering**



The newsletter produced by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership  
for professionals working with children, young people and families

# Happy Campers at Poacher 2008

Where could 3,000 young people get together and enjoy a week of action-packed activity and adventure? The answer is Poacher 2008, the international scout and guide camp, held on the Lincolnshire Showground in July.

The event is held every four years, and is open to all scouts and guides in Lincolnshire, aged 10 to 19, as well as fellow scouts and guides from throughout the UK and beyond!

Running Poacher is a massive feat of organisation – as well as 3,000 scouts and guides camping for a week on site, 2,000 adult volunteers are there to provide support.

All the scouts and guides had the chance to try out almost every activity imaginable, from rock climbing to quad biking, and circus

skills to parascending. There were also many craft activities, and some were able to camp in the woods and polish their survival skills!

Many young people also worked hard to ensure Poacher ran smoothly whether helping the catering team or running activities.

Thomas, aged 15 had helped to run the Black Hole, a maze in complete darkness on three levels, and said, "It's been really good. Some people have got lost in it, but they've all been found eventually!"

Gemma tried out self defence and said, "I enjoyed it, and I feel it's important for girls of my age."



Angus, aged 17 from Louth is an Explorer Scout, and was a member of Poacher's PR team, writing for the Daily Planet newsletter which was printed and distributed daily around the camp. Angus said, "I want to work as a journalist and this is great experience, I've been liaising with the press and we've had national, regional and local coverage."

"Guiding and scouting offers the opportunity to push yourself, but as part of a 'family', with lots of people to offer support and encouragement."

David McWilliams, Head of Children's Services South Holland and County Specialism for Participation and Inclusion, visited Poacher, and was impressed with what he saw:

"This year's Poacher 2008 was a first for me. It's becoming increasingly rare to be met with such a warm, enthusiastic welcome, which is exactly what my colleague, Sal Thirlway and I were greeted with when we arrived at Poacher.

The event was extremely well organised, and it was easy to see that many months of planning and preparation had gone into making it such a success.

It is one of the few places where children and young people can experience real freedom to wander and explore, speak to new people and participate in activities, safe in the knowledge that their safety and well-being are paramount in the minds and actions of the many volunteers, without whom Poacher would not happen."

"Throughout my short stay, the words 'fun' and 'enjoyment' were frequently used by young people and volunteers alike and it is these words which I will take away with me and try to ensure they are high on everyone's agenda when working with children and young people."



Guide leader Helen Wydell added:

Whilst Poacher has provided a great advertisement for volunteering, remember we are always seeking support for scout and guide groups who meet on a weekly basis across the county, so if you have any spare time and want to share in this do get in touch!

"Guiding and scouting offers the opportunity to push yourself, but as part of a 'family', with lots of people to offer support and encouragement".



Brownies were able to enjoy 'taster' days at Poacher

To find out more about getting involved with the guides please phone 0800 1695901 or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

To contact the scouts please phone 01522 546390 or visit [www.linccscout.org.uk](http://www.linccscout.org.uk)