



National Citizen Service (NCS) and Arts Award

Hints and tips for NCS Participants



How to work towards Arts Award whilst taking part in NCS

Are you planning to take part in NCS? As part of the summer programme you will come across opportunities to work towards Arts Award during the NCS activities.

Arts Award enables you to grow your own talents, explore the arts, be a creative leader, and get yourself a qualification. You can work towards Arts Award in any art form. You'll create a portfolio or arts log that shows off your creativity and gives you a recognised qualification to put on your CV.

During the NCS experience you and your team will plan and deliver a social action project that makes a difference to your community while you develop new skills for work and life. If you choose to design a social action project that involves some arts activity, you'll find that you can easily collect evidence towards your Arts Award, and then all you need to do is bring it back to school or college for your Arts Award adviser to check (your adviser is the adult at your school, college or club who is leading Arts Award). Take a look at our top tips for collecting evidence overleaf.

What might a creative NCS project look like?



Here are a few ideas to get you thinking...

- ▶ A fashion show to raise money for a chosen charity
- ▶ An art exhibition or music gig in aid of a local cause
- ▶ A website or blog that campaigns for a chosen social issue, this might include a photography campaign, creative writing or film
- ▶ Designing and making a product that you sell to raise money to allow further social action to happen
- ▶ Creating some street art or public art to raise awareness of an issue you are passionate about
- ▶ A storytelling event for younger children to raise awareness of important community issues
- ▶ A flash mob style event in your local town to fundraise for your chosen cause, this might include dance, song or drama

Linking NCS and Bronze Arts Award

- Part A: taking part in arts activities and developing your arts skills
- Part B: experiencing the arts as an audience member
- Part C: researching an artist or craftsman who inspires you
- Part D: passing on your arts skills to others



Before you go:

If you get the opportunity, visit an arts event to be part of the audience, create a review and share it for **Part B**: explore the arts as an audience member.

If you are inspired by a particular artist or craftsman then you can start researching their arts career and work for **Part C**: arts inspiration. Research means finding out about their career, where they learnt their craft, what work have they done, what they enjoy about it and how it influences you. This could be someone who does a lot of social action using their art skills.

Don't worry if these activities aren't directly linked to your NCS project.

During the programme:

NCS skills building

If you take part in an arts activity or workshop with your team led by a visiting artist or maybe your team leader, reflect on how you think your skills have developed and evidence it for **Part A**: explore the arts as a participant.

If the visiting artist is also giving a performance to your team, or if you go to see an arts event hosted by another NCS team, you can review this for **Part B**: explore the arts as an audience member.

If you haven't already completed **Part C**: arts inspiration, take the chance to meet and interview the visiting artist about their arts career and work.

NCS social action delivery

If your social action project involves you planning and sharing your arts skills with others by leading a short presentation or workshop, then review how it went and ask for their feedback for **Part D**: arts skills share

After you graduate:

If you didn't have the chance to pass on your arts skills to others during the NCS programme, you can do this when you go back to school or college and review it for **Part D**: arts skills share.

You can also complete any of the other parts for Bronze after the NCS programme finishes.

As an NCS graduate, you'll find out about a wide range of new projects that you can get involved in to do more social action, or you might decide to plan your own project with a group of friends. NCS graduate activity offers a great opportunity to progress with Arts Award. Take a look at how you can work towards Silver and Gold Arts Award and see some work by other young people at artsawardvoice.com

Top tips for collecting your Arts Award evidence

NCS helps you to gain great leadership skills and to be more independent. One of the ways that you can do this is to manage your Arts Award portfolio and how you collect your evidence so that you can bring it back to school or college ready to be assessed. Follow our top tips for making sure that you don't miss anything:

- ▶ Get a copy of the **Bronze young people's guidance booklet or the Bronze arts log** to take with you on NCS, it'll help you to organise your evidence. Ask your Arts Award adviser if they have one of these
- ▶ Remember to collect as much evidence as you can of your activities as they happen, you can do this using photographs, film, voice recordings or written notes. If using photographs, make sure you have permissions from the other people in your group to use their photographs

- ▶ Save any tickets, programmes or fliers from the arts events that you go to or are involved in
- ▶ If you're using a lot of digital evidence then you might consider using a platform such as Wordpress, Google Docs or Seesaw
- ▶ Remember to collect feedback from other team members about activities as they are happening to save you having to ask them later on. This includes their feedback on your review of the arts event and of your arts skill share session. They can write it down or record it, the choice is yours
- ▶ If you need to ask your NCS team leader to add any notes to your evidence to back up what you have done, remember to ask them before the end of the programme
- ▶ When creating your evidence and reflecting on what you have done, remember to focus on the arts activity rather than just talking about the social issue your team chose
- ▶ Try to keep all of your evidence in one place including any digital files, so that your Arts Award adviser can help you to finish off and enter it for moderation when you return after your NCS experience

