

Youth Development

Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre and the Pinkston Panthers teamed up to offer an amazing week of adventure for some enthusiastic kids from Glasgow.



Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre invited some youngsters back to embark on an additional residential week of learning and adventure. They covered everything from basic skills to a river trip, topped off with a joint day with the Pinkston Panthers.

Every year Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre works with hundreds of children from Glasgow who have the opportunity to try a wide range of outdoor activities, one of which is paddling. However, it can be a huge step for a young person from experiencing a taster session during a course to perhaps joining a club to continue participating in an activity.

The Youth Development in Adventure Sports (YDAS) week was designed to offer these young paddlers the chance to experience a wide range of what paddling has to offer and aid the possible transition into the club environment.

The programme

Monday - The young paddlers were collected from various pick-up points around Glasgow and by the afternoon were kayaking on the Gareloch outside Blairvadach.

Tuesday – kayaking day trip from Luss around some of the islands on Loch Lomond then a pool session at Helensburgh in the evening.

Wednesday – open canoeing on the Gareloch then trying different kayaks at Pinkston (Lightnings, slalom K1s, C1s, river racers and other white water boats).

Thursday – kayaking day trip down the River Leven from Balloch to Dumbarton.

Friday – trying different kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddle boards at Pinkston finishing with kayaking on the white-water course.



One of the main aims of the YDAS week was to provide pathways for the new paddlers to continue paddling and learning new skills after the week had come to an end. Blairvadach and the Pinkston Panthers teamed up to offer this pathway with help from the SCA.

What the kids thought

“When I stayed at Blairvadach for a week I was doing kayaking and canoeing.

My favourite part of the week was when we went down to Loch Lomond for a day and kayaked from Luss and around some of the islands.

We also went to Pinkston a few of the days and we got to try out loads of different types of canoes and kayaks and even have a shot at the white water course.

I love paddling in both kayaks and the canoes but I enjoyed paddling in the kayaks more, as they were more easy to move about.”

- Eilish

“I thought Pinkston was really good because we got to try all of the different kayaks.”

“The best part was going down the white water course.”

- Danielle



Supported by

A massive thank you to Glasgow City Council for the funding and support throughout the process. Thank you to Roger Holmes (SCA Regional Development Manager) for facilitating new partnerships and especially to the Pinkston Panthers (in particular Aimee and Fraser) for hopefully inspiring the kids to continue their paddling journey.

