



Wilderness Project CLG

The background of the entire image is a wide-angle photograph of a group of about seven people sitting on a grassy ridge. They are seen from behind, looking out over a vast, green landscape. In the distance, there are rolling hills, a small lake, and more mountains under a bright blue sky with wispy clouds. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grass.

Impact Report 2023

'How Far We've Come'

2023 In Numbers



65

Programmes & Interventions Delivered



14

Successful Funding Applications



12000+

Hours of Face-Face support provided



800+

No. of individual Participants Engaged



32

Referring Orgs engaged/ partnered



30,000+

Social Media Reaches & Impressions



312

Participation Days Delivered



100+

Fires Lit / Marshmallows Toasted

CEO & Chair Joint Report

2023 has been another hugely successful year for Venture Out Wilderness Project CLG, where we have seen consistent growth and progress in terms of all metrics agreed in our annual strategic plan . These include the impact we have made with participants on the ground, our activity levels and the number of programmes and interventions delivered, the number of new organisations we've collaborated or partnered with, our engagement of those most in need, and our turnover and revenue stream increases. These increases are all in line with previous annual growth patterns and indicate a very positive future for the organisation going forward.

Developments of particular significance in 2023 include; our progress into the final phase of the CSP funding process which we very much hope to secure in 2024; the signing of a Service Level Agreement with Tusla to deliver 1-2-1 supports; the creation of the Irish Outdoor Therapeutic Activity Providers Network and the important role Venture Out played in this process; and the engagement of 800+ individuals through our diverse range of support services.

Each of these developments reflect the impressive progress Venture Out have made in the past few years, and we now look to 2024 with ambition and optimism for the future. We are excited to continue growing, increasing the numbers of participants and communities we can positively impact and support.

ABOUT VENTURE OUT

OUR VISION

A socially-just, sustainable society, more integrated with nature and the outdoor environment

OUR MISSION

To promote transformative outdoor learning experiences that enhance personal and interpersonal development, creating a deeper understanding of our interdependence on nature.

OUR VALUES & 'NON-NEGOTIABLES'

- Espouse a participant centred focus at all times.
- Recognise and harness the therapeutic benefits of nature in all Programmes.
- Prioritise affordability, accessibility and sustainability in our outdoor learning experiences.
- Promote equality, social-justice and anti-discriminatory practices
- Uphold Honesty and Integrity in every aspect of Venture Out operations.
- Promote environmental conservation & a deep understanding of our interdependence on nature.
- Support Adventure, Creativity, and Innovation in all aspects of our operations

OUR PHILOSOPHY & THEORY OF CHANGE

Venture Out Wilderness Project believe that every participant has their own unique set of personal needs and desires, along with the necessary strengths and skills within to address and meet these needs. Through our work, we place great trust in these inner qualities and design our programmes with the view to reinforcing and building upon them. By adopting this approach, we provide people with an opportunity to build self-confidence and self awareness, while developing a range of strategies to overcome the challenges they face.

In addition, we place great emphasis on the role nature and the outdoor natural environment plays in the change process. By engaging our participants in a range of experiential, creative and challenging outdoor nature-based activities, we find it is often the natural environment itself that serves as the ultimate catalyst for personal development and positive change.

Our Core Programmes

Ember

Extended Wilderness Based Personal Development Expeditions
Designed to support young adults experiencing adversity

Unearth

1-2-1 Adventure Therapy Support Service for young people / adults
Once off or periodic Youth work & mentoring focused Programme

Branching Out

Group based personal development for people of all ages
Delivered within community based, urban green & blue spaces

Two Wolves

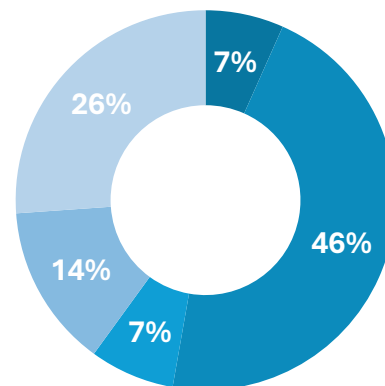
Mental Health & Wellbeing focused Programme for young men, delivered in local outdoor spaces in partnership with schools, sports clubs & youth projects



Participation & Programme Breakdown

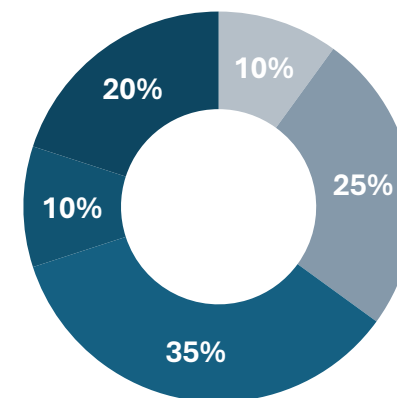
% OF PARTICIPANTS PER PROGRAMME

- Ember
- Two Wolves
- Uneath
- Branching Out
- Other Programmes



% OF TOTAL PROGRAMMES DELIVERED

- Ember
- Two Wolves
- Uneath
- Branching Out
- Other Programmes



* It is important to stress that each programme varies greatly in duration, session no. & frequency, and intensity

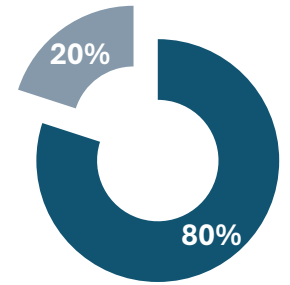


Who We've Worked With

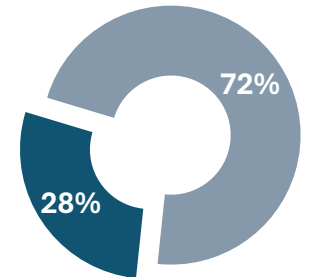
Presenting Needs Of Individuals Engaged

Mental Health Related Issues
Young People Within Care System
Early School Leavers
At Risk Youth
Long Term Unemployed
Engaged with Probation services
History of Re-Offending / Recidivism
Substances or Alcohol mis-use
Those in Recovery
Those Experiencing Homelessness
Refugees and Asylum Seekers
People From the LGBTQ Community
People with intellectual disabilities

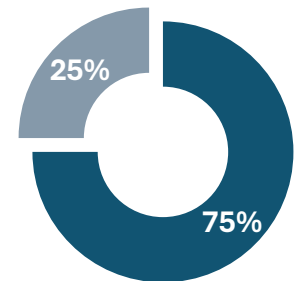
■ Male ■ Female



■ Over 18's



■ Marginalised...



Testimonials

Family Support / Link Worker

‘Venture Out were really great to work with. They brought a professional approach and tailored their program to address the presenting needs of the young people they were working with’

Teacher – Two Wolves Programme

‘My day with Venture Out was without doubt one of my best experiences as a teacher. Before my day with Venture Out I was convinced that the facilitators would not break through to the tough young lads in my group. From speaking to my students after the event it was obvious how beneficial the session was. Our TY students constantly have people/ groups coming into the school to speak to them about certain topics. Venture Out had a completely different approach to communicating with the students’

Partner Organisation

‘Venture Out’s programmes are greatly in need and hugely beneficial for the participants that they engage. It has been fantastic to give our clients an opportunity to access such programmes within their own communities’

Ember Participant

‘I seriously appreciate the trip to the unknown! Brilliantly organized, couldn't have asked for better in any way. The programme did me the world of good and helped me find some inner strength that I thought was well dead in me. Can't thank you and the Venture Out Team enough, onwards and upwards towards the light’

Parent of a Participant

‘Since finishing the program, we’ve all really noticed a difference in their attitude and behaviour. The program just came at the right time and you can see the change in their mind set since they returned’



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



South West Mayo

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY CLG

Comhlacht Forbartha
Iardheisceart Mhaigh Eo CTR



The Community
Foundation for Ireland



**Mental Health
Ireland**



Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Meitheal Druaig an Iarthair



**National
Lottery**



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



Our 2023 Funders 'Thank You'

VENTURE
OUT

How to Get Involved

As a registered charity, we welcome all offers of support or involvement by any one individual or organisation.

If you are inspired by the impact we make and want to get involved or contribute, please get in touch.

Venture-Out.ie



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