

# Cavan and Monaghan ETB Summer campers highest on record!

*Availo Celt 2014*



Some of the young people who took part in the Cavan and Monaghan ETB Summer Camp Programme.

Summer camps Cavan & Monaghan ETB Summer camps based at Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre were a better success than ever this year with over 400 young people taking part in the summer camp outdoor adventure week throughout the

months of July and August. There was a notable difference in the amount of teenagers participating in the teenage camps as well as cousins visiting their relations in Cavan & Monaghan just to be part of this fantastic camp.

During the week long camps the participants engaged in a wide range of challenging activities that included canoeing, sit on kayaking, banana boating, archery, low ropes course, climbing wall, leave no trace workshops, adventure races, mountain biking and lots more. Adventure racing is a combination of two or more disciplines. Our teenagers had to navigate while running through Dartrey Forest, mountain biking and paddle a short distance on the Dromore river. This programme is also available to all secondary schools and youth groups throughout the year.

New to the programme this year for our junior campers was our Ecology trail in Dartrey forest with the Leave No Trace principle 'Minimise the effects of fires'. The young campers had to identify different plants and trees by following the map and finished off with a small fire where they made s'mores and roasted marshmallows as a reward. A Big thank you to Tesco Ireland for providing all the equipment needed to cook and set up the fire. This programme was run under the expert guidance of our Ecology and Leave No Trace Advanced Trainer/Instructor.

Tanagh OEC would like to

express their gratitude to the following organisations and companies who through their generous sponsorship allowed them to present all of the campers with a goodie bag at the end of the week including, Cavan and Monaghan ETB, Cootehill Credit Union Ltd, Abbott Ireland, Tesco Ireland, CJB's Surf Company and The Road Safety Authority.

Also to the parents and guardians our sincere thanks to you for your support of Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre Summer Camps programme 2014. We hope to see you next year.

**European Students** Tanagh OEC were also very busy this summer hosting a group of teenage French students & tutors for 20 days who participated in a language programme mixed with Outdoor Adventure and day trips to some of our national tourist attractions and a number of Spanish students who were staying with local families who visited the Centre for day trips. Even the weather obliged this year for them.

**Monaghan County Council Ecology Summer Camp** This camp was organized by Monaghan County Council Environmental Department which ran for three weeks and included bug catching and plant identification from the wild life garden at Tanagh combined with Outdoor Adventure. Our ecology programme is aimed at children of primary school age. It engages

the children in activities where they learn to identify various plants and trees in a fun and educational manner.

**Other News** This was Tanagh OEC's second year to deliver the SOLAS Outdoor Activity Apprenticeship and has just come to an end with great success. The course involved 19 trainees to train to be outdoor instructors over 47 weeks. Successful Students on this course gained qualifications in Mountain Skills, Single Pitch Award, Power Boating, Kayak skills, ICU Kayak Level 1 Instructor and REC 3 First Aid.

**Finally** in early summer Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre was named as the winner of the CARA National Inclusion Award for Xcessible Outdoor Centre. The announcement was made by the CARA National Adapted Physical Activity Centre in conjunction with the Department of Justice and Equality. The CARA National Inclusion Awards recognise excellent practice by organisations and people who contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities in Sport, Physical Activity, Physical Education, Fitness and Outdoor Activities. The inclusion awards initiative aims to heighten awareness of the inclusion of people with disabilities across all aspects of sport. Check out our Facebook page to see all photos of activities ran at the centre and comments left from groups over the busiest summer to date!



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