

# Neath Port Talbot Open Gold Centre

The Open Gold Centre is staffed by employees of Neath Port Talbot Youth Service and a team of volunteers. All staff are highly experienced and hold the necessary qualifications. The training programme runs from the Autumn through to the following summer when we complete the final expedition.



The training consists mainly of day walks in the Brecon Beacons with some indoor evening sessions. Here is what some previous participants say about the training:

*'The training walks were great fun. I had a really good laugh and saw some really beautiful views.'*

*'I loved the day walks, it was a great feeling being miles from anywhere with a group of friends.'*

The final expedition is likely to be the greatest challenge the young people have faced to date. However it is challenge that brings the greatest reward. Here is some feedback from previous participants:

*'the expedition was the hardest thing I have ever done. We all worked so well as a team and got each other through it. It was an amazing experience and I will never forget it.'*

*'After finishing the expedition I believe I can do anything. I have learnt that anything is possible if you try hard enough and I have learnt that if you work as a team you can get through anything, it is the best thing I have ever done by far!'*

We always go away for 8 - 10 days to Dartmoor, Devon and Cornwall. Having completed the final expedition we then spend a further 5 days completing various activities and generally enjoying ourselves.



The value of the Gold Award cannot be understated. Approximately 250 Gold Awards were gained in Wales last year, compared to over 2000 bronze and silver awards. It is essential that young people are gaining skills and experience outside of school, college and university, the Gold Award offers young people a rounded programme of development that will equip them with exactly the skills that higher education establishments and employers are looking for. It is a significant commitment, however this is why it counts for so much. We can guarantee an enjoyable, unforgettable experience and friends and memories for life!