



'Swanfield Sparkies' Junior Community Wardens

The Aim:

To encourage young people to become involved in their local area through positive and active engagement; creating a sense of community ownership, respect and pride for their local environment in which they live and play.

Introduction

A2dominion in partnership with Chichester District Council Community Wardens are establishing a Junior Community Warden scheme to help improve the physical environment, promote citizenship and educate those that take part in the scheme about the negative effects of environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. We aim to engage with children aged 7 – 14 years old by encouraging them to join in a programme of educational and fun activities.

Several young children living in the Swanfield park area of Chichester have been involved in voluntary litter picking during school holidays and after school and it is felt that there is a general lack of youth provision for children of this age after school and in holidays and a Junior Warden Scheme would encourage these and other children to help look after their local environment learn new skills and be rewarded with fun activities.

Regular activities will be organised where the Junior Wardens will have the opportunity to work alongside the a2dominion staff and Community Wardens to find ways to improve the area in which they work and play.

The Junior Warden Scheme will consist of educational activities and events The aim of which will be to:

- Provide new and challenging experiences for children
- Encourage children to get involved in local democracy
- Encourage children to lead healthy active lifestyles
- Promote active citizenship and pride within the community
- Help tackle juvenile nuisance and anti social behaviour
- Encourage an awareness of personal safety
- Encourage children to take an active role in their community

By participating in the Junior Wardens scheme young people will be able to:

- Identify environmental issues in their area
- Report issues and encourage parents/gardians to do the same
- Encourage friends and family to look after their environment
- Come up with innovative ideas to improve and sustain their community and environment
- Be proud of and have respect for where they live
- Positively engage with others of all ages
- Keep safe

Recruiting and Rewards

In addition to being involved with the Junior Warden scheme children will have the opportunity to gain 'The Junior Achievement Award' (JAA). This is an educational approach to recognising children's achievements and is designed to encourage them to take a more active role in the activities that interest them. By taking part in the award scheme children will be able to record their feelings and achievements, and gain a nationally recognised award for their commitment.

By attending sessions young people can gain points. Upon reaching a certain number of points the young person will receive their Junior Warden uniform. By taking part in the planned activities young people can continue to gain points which can later be redeemed for trips such as a theme park visit or game of bowling.

Numbers will initially be restricted to 12 per session on a first come first served basis. However, if we have volunteers come forward we may be able to increase numbers.

Location and Timescale

Junior Neighbourhood Warden sessions will be based from Swanfield Park Community Centre and be held Monthly. During School holidays sessions will be on Thursdays 10.30 – 12.30 and during term time start 3.30pm - 5pm

What exactly is in the Junior Wardens Programme?

The first sessions will include:

1. Junior Wardens project proposal and feedback from young people
2. Introduction – 'Who and what are Junior Wardens?' (Including walkabout)
3. Litterpicking. Risky rubbish identification sheet. Observing and reporting
4. Litter pick and identifying more environmental issues
5. Flower planting on the Green, growing easy and tasty fruit and vegetables
6. First Aid/ Personal safety training
7. Health and activity sessions
8. Responsible dog ownership

Over the weeks young people will have the opportunity to think about what activities and events they would like to run over the summer holidays. Towards the end of the first term the young people will be able to plan their own events.

Partnership Working

The Junior Warden Scheme will primarily involve children working alongside a2dominion staff and the Community Warden team, taking part in a range of environmental projects that have been identified by the a2dominion and the Warden Scheme. Children will also be given the opportunity to establish their own activities and projects as the scheme progresses.

Project work will also involve key players in the community including, A2Dominion, Chichester District Council, Chichester Police and Chichester Fire and Rescue.

Measuring Success

The scheme aims to improve the physical environment, promote citizenship alongside helping the Junior Wardens understand social impacts of environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. To ensure that these achievements are seen and felt by the Junior Wardens and all members of the community the children will complete personal files documenting their learning sessions with information sheets and any certificates earned.

When appropriate, and with express parental consents, Chichester District Council's and a2dominion's press department will publicise the achievements of the Junior Warden scheme by writing and submitting articles to the local press and by including information of the Junior Wardens success in the Chichester District Council publications.

Should children take part in five successful activities/ events they will receive a nationally recognised Youth Achievement Award that will be presented towards the end of the scheme at a local Youth Achievement ceremony.

To encourage others to join the scheme it is important that the Junior Wardens achievements are also praised within the school environment. It is hoped that towards the end of the scheme the Junior Wardens will be able to discuss their personal and team achievements with the rest of the school during a school assembly.

If the scheme continues there may be the opportunity for committed Junior Wardens to continue their development and involvement as Junior Warden Leaders