

John Muir Award Script

Hello! So, I'm Max, this is a bit of a different video for me.

I'm starting a project for the John Muir award. (whoop whoop)

What is the John Muir award?

It's an environmental award scheme focused on wild places and natural environments, encouraging responsibility for our wild places, focusing on fun, adventure, and most importantly in my opinion, Exploration.

There's four main parts to the John Muir award

Discover- discovering a new wild place in your area

Explore- exploring and finding out more about the said natural environment in an enjoyable and fun way.

Conserve- taking care of your natural environment, making a difference and giving back.

And Share- sharing your experience, achievements and learning, something I'll be doing in this video

So, what's MY proposal?

The wild place I have discovered is freshwater west, a surfing beach in Pembrokeshire, west Wales. Famous for its stunning views, blue waters, deep sand dunes and a certain glasses wearing, wand wielding wizard.

I intend to find out more about this natural environment, and to conserve it, I've proposed a beach clean with my pals Ethan, Poppy, Caitlin and James to protect and conserve the site and keep it looking pukka.

We reached out to Surfers against sewage to participate in their Million Mile Clean, and they sent us a pack to get started,

We have Gloves, A first Aid kit, Pamphlets, Bags, and we acquired some litter pickers from a mate

Cheers Simon!

So, let's do it.

When we arrived at the beach, we discovered the national trust were hosting a beach clean of their own. Something we were pleased to hear was a regular event there.

It was nice to see that the local community were playing an active role in the conservation of our local ecosystems.

We spoke to some of the volunteers who were very approachable and eager to encourage us to get involved. They were pleased to hear that we had started our own beach clean.

They stayed until about lunchtime and I was pleased with the number of people that were involved.

Now is a good time for me to talk about why we chose Freshwater west, aside from the stunning natural beauty.

We wanted to choose a location that is appropriate for adventurous activities, freshwater fits the bill with its surfing identity.

As an adventure film maker, I have a wider interest in protecting these areas so I can spread the story and excitement of natural places and keep the narrative a hopeful and positive one for future generations to come.

Fresh water west was a key filming location for the final 2 harry potter films, making it a popular location for fans to come and visit, as a fan myself, this was exciting for me too. there is even a monument to Dobby on the beach to where the character died in the films.

Hilariously to me though. It's not actually at the spot where his grave was in the film. Anyway

Due to this we speculated there might be a larger element of litter in the area and I knew that people often dropped socks on the beach, which we found, but I was pleased that most tributes were stones and pebbles.

We found loads of litter on the beach, there was a predominant trend of plastics and remnants of fishing equipment.

Most likely due to how easy it is for microplastics to infiltrate ecosystems, this is due to the sheer amount of single use plastics being produced and how long plastic takes to break down.

Freshwater West has direct access to the Atlantic Ocean making it perfect for surfing and rip currents, but also prime for fishing equipment and pollution to infiltrate.

We were humbled by the sheer amount of pollution, seeing it firsthand in the ecosystem,

Even after a public beach clean and our best efforts we were devastated at the impact our actions have had and are having on our local environment and on a global scale.

Plastic pollution has a huge impact on our ecosystems, small "nurdles of plastic and sometimes bigger can find their way into the food chain, which is insanely damaging to the wildlife, particularly birds and smaller animals, like this little guy.

the plastic gets stuck in their stomachs. Which can kill them Truly awful stuff.

And it's not just a local problem, this is a global issue, in 2018 the Uk government released a statement that said 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution every year.

It contributes to global warming too.

According to surfers against sewage, 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption now contains plastic,

90% of plastic made is from fossil fuels and for every ton of plastic made, 2 and half tonnes of carbon dioxide is generated.

The facts are out there guys.

Our beach clean lasted nearly 3 hours, and we left feeling positive knowing we had helped somewhat. And we recycled the rubbish at the university where my halls of residence are,

But what can we do in the future?

Well, I will encourage as many people as possible to get involved in your local wild spaces. I think beach cleans are a positive activity for conservation,

but that goes everywhere as well. Forests, cities, beaches. I think it's important to just be involved with our wild places and be a force for good with conservation efforts.

Lots of companies are cutting down on their use of single use plastics, which is great, but I think lots of work needs to be done to educate people about the damage we are doing to the planet.

I feel like there is a disconnect between people, and the issue at hand. People feel separate from the damage, and I think by getting people out onto the beaches, into the forests, seeing it firsthand, that in my opinion is what will help us the most, attitudes need to change, and that starts with education y'know.

That's all I've got for you, Cheers, all the best bye `

Link to finished film

https://youtu.be/PDJplwNU2R8?si=Dq_6lmZZYElwGVgg



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