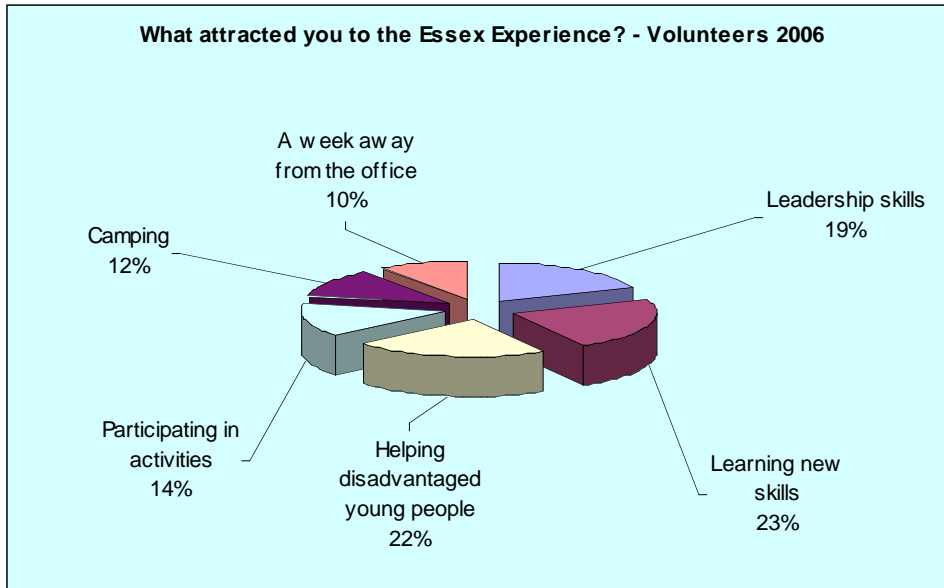


ESSEX EXPERIENCE 2006

VOLUNTEER EVALUATION

Returns 73% (24/33)

1. Which of the following attracted you to volunteer for the Essex Experience?



Other:

- Meeting new people
- DofE residential
- The "Challenge"
- Self-confidence

2. How good was the content of the pre-course information?

Good 91% Adequate 9%

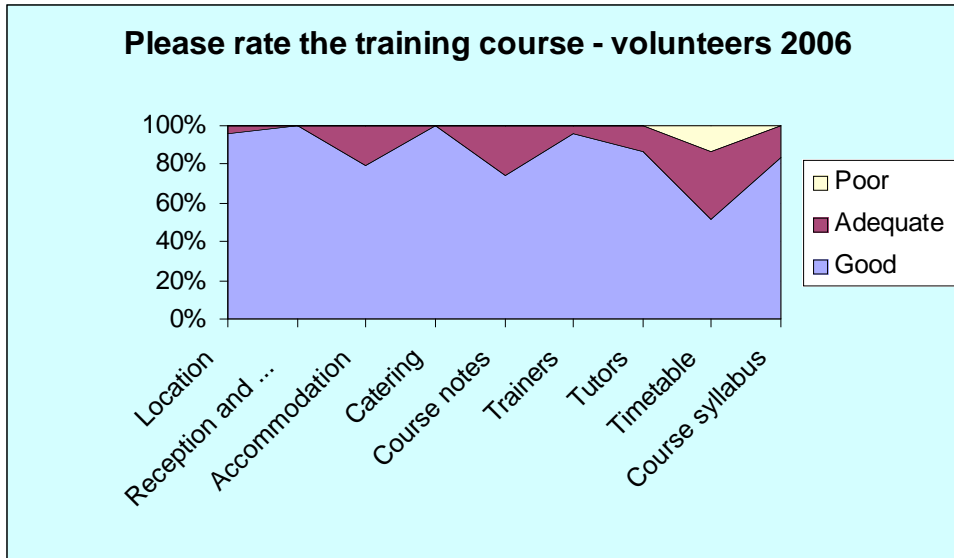
Did you receive all the information you required?

Yes 95%

What suggestions could you give to enhance the pre-course information?

- A timetable of what we'll be doing on the EE
- More detail, better timetable for volunteers
- I think it should be stated that you are trained and then the running of the sub-camp is left to your group. I found it slightly misleading that our Tutors would not be in the camp with us.
- Not to save important information till last and then bombarded with it all on the Thursday.

3. Please rate the particulars of the training course?



Improvements

- Some parts of the course were not that useful but a lot of time was spent on them leaving a mad rush on the last day.
- The daily structure was very “last minute”. Maybe “tomorrows” timetable placed in a central location.
- I found the timetable quite exhausting and by the weekend the pressure of all we had to learn and the organisation, including the sub-camp theme, really took its toll.
- There was no timetable and although things change I believe a timetable of sorts would have been helpful.

4. How did you rate the “First Help Pocket Book” (small white booklet)?

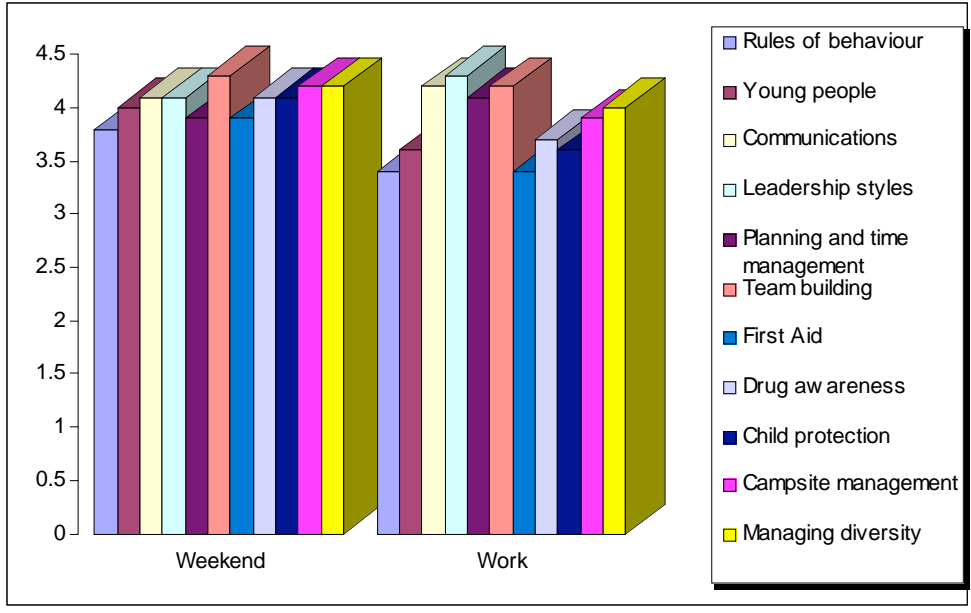
Good 78% [compared with 63% in 2005 & 84% in 2004]

Can you suggest any improvements that could be made to it?

- I would suggest copies given to use should be binded
- I have to admit I never felt the need to use it, but was glad to have it as a fallback.
- Some information was confusing. We were told to have five groups of volunteers but booklet stated four. Otherwise ac useful guide.

5. Please rate the course sessions according to usefulness for the weekend and at work.

ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL



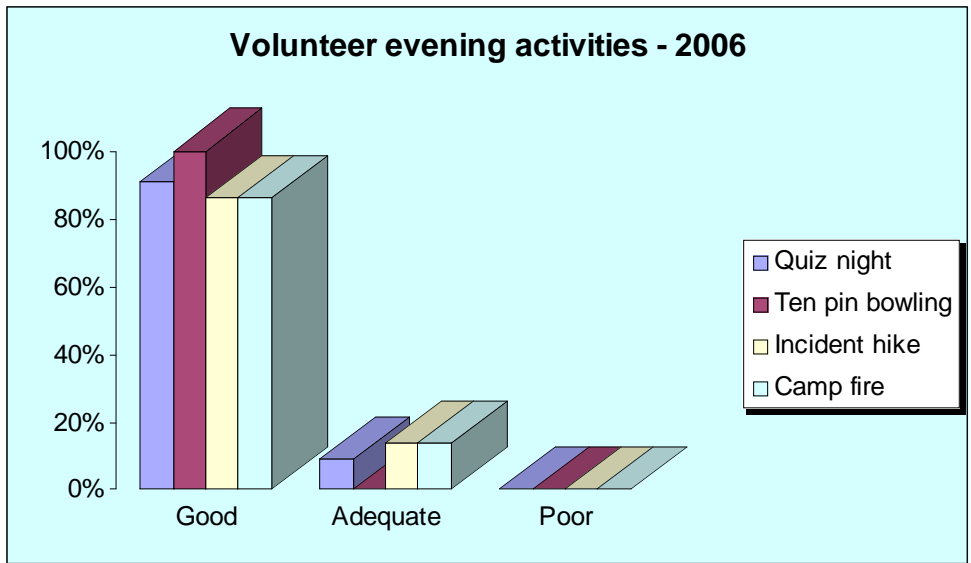
Was there anything else that was needed for the weekend or work?

- What hell it would be like.

Was there anything not needed for the weekend?

- No everything was essential
- Young people, drug awareness and child protection were excellent for the weekend and future work. However, I don't have the interaction in the work place.

6. Please rate the course evening activities.



7. Did the evening activities help promote team building between course members?

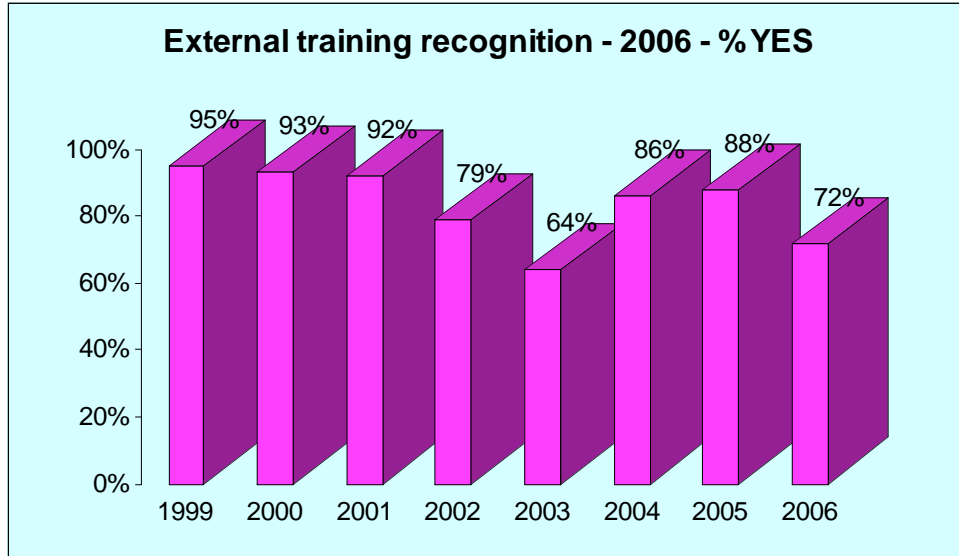
Yes 100%

Can you suggest other evening activities, which would encourage team building?

- I thought the evening activities were good.
- It would have been good to do something with our sub-camps, as merging the Tutor Groups was difficult.
- Team sports – football.

8. Do you think it is necessary for the training courses to be recognised by an external organisation?

Yes 72%



Why - yes?

- Yes, because more people will learn of the benefits of the week and it ensures the course content is up to date.
- Easier to get time off work, plus looks good on CV.
- Because the training was really good, especially First Aid, and it was a valuable experience.
- Since an activity provides the individual practical and theoretical learning to equip them to become more confident, get leadership and team building skills.
- The course was very in depth and taught me a lot and I feel it is a massive benefit to my job. The effort we all put in and the time we spent should definitely be recognised, as it would be easier to define on a CV.
- It will promote this week and therefore more volunteers and young people will attend.
- So a wider variety of people know it, which would make it more recognisable.
- It covers everything needed to work with young people but it also covers qualities such as communication and leadership.
- Because highlighting its strengths as a training course encourages volunteers to participate fully.
- Recognition for trainers, volunteers and the organisation.
- I feel the training course was an excellent balance of activities and learning. During the course you could feel everybody pulling together as a team to achieve a common goal.
- It would let others know what the Scouts are up to.
- Because it would help to take part in any other voluntary work involving young people.

ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

- I don't think it is necessary, however, it would be good. **The training course is of an excellent standard and is totally fit for purpose.** An external recognition would only enhance and support an already strong programme.

Why –no?

- No comments

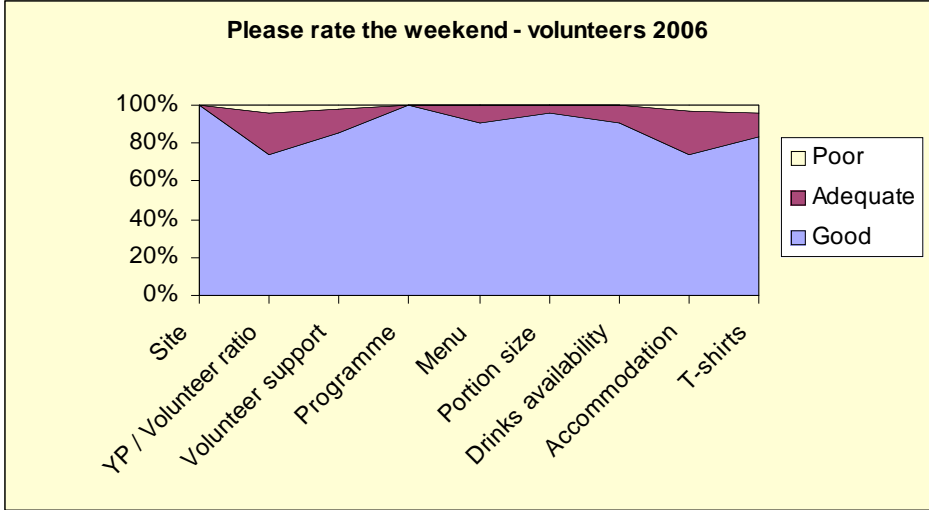
9. Do you think projects like the Essex Experience have a positive influence on the lives of the young people who attend?

Yes 96% (compared with 93% in 2005)

Why?

- Young people are learning to get on with others and are getting positive feedback instead of being told off all the time.
- It gives them the chance to try activities they have never done before and find out what they are good at, which builds their confidence.
- It helps them to meet new people and socialise. They get to try activities they would not have the opportunity to try normally. They can gain confidence and make new friends.
- It gives them the chance to do something different and they are more likely to relate to volunteers as they see us as friends. Therefore, more likely to tell us about their problems.
- I believe it opens their eyes to other more innocent activities that could give them more enjoyment than drink, drugs and sex.
- If they don't do any activities outside of school it gives them a positive thing they have done during school life.
- Gets them to meet new people and things they may do. May have an effect on their lifestyle and social activities.
- It gives them a chance to do something they wouldn't usually do and learn new skills and make new friends.
- Young people get to experience something new in a fun environment without the fear of being judged.
- Because they make the young people at least aware that the world has more to offer than perhaps they thought previously. OPPORTUNITY, OPPORTUNITY, OPPORTUNITY.
- Due to the vast diversity of the group of young people I feel it had a very positive influence as everyone forgot about their differences and just enjoyed themselves.
- They overcame fears and personal barriers, promotes their physical, social and moral development.
- Because it shows them that there are people, who they don't know, that care about them and want to give them a good time, talk to them and help them.
- Having been on the Essex Experience and seen the impact that it has on young people first hand I definitely agree. The project gives them confidence, an opportunity to try new things without being pre-judged from previous behaviour.

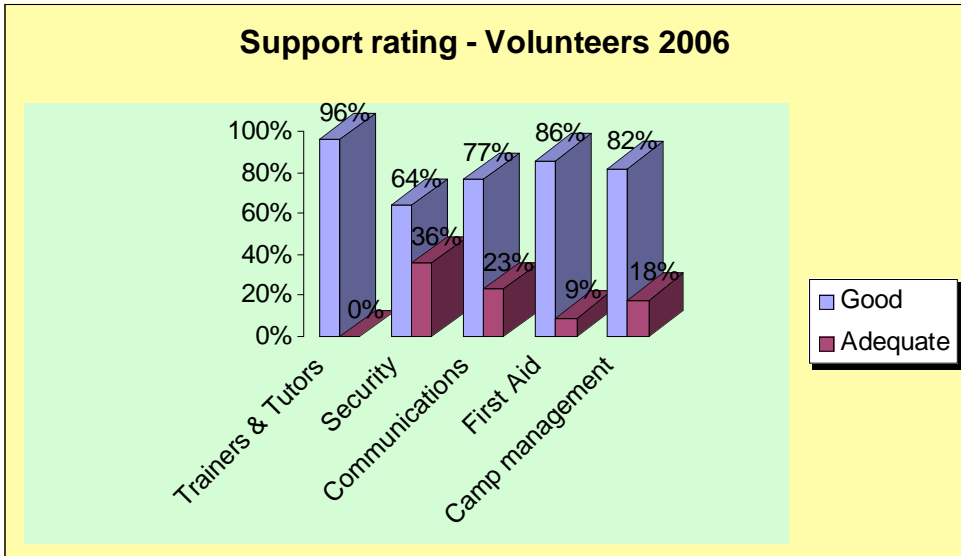
10. Please rate the particulars of the Essex Experience weekend.



Improvements:

- **Mattresses lumpy and rubbish mattress covers**
- Young people should get a different coloured T-shirt to volunteers because it was difficult to identify volunteers from far away.
- I think the bed linen should be provided, as we had no choice but to use our sleeping blanket. They did not fit well on the bed.

11. Please rate the support you received during the weekend?

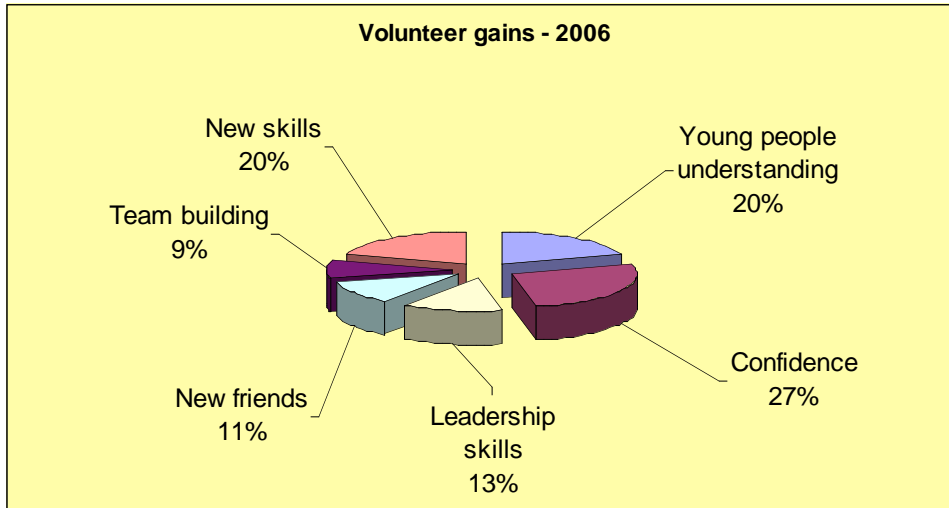


Improvements:

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- The lack of security and First Aid staff on site on Saturday was disappointing when one of my colleagues needed help (see adequate management score).
- The aim and objectives of the Tutors should be to train and encourage prior to the weekend.
- At times there appeared to be a lack of communication between the teams. The way certain people spoke to volunteers about the running of the camp and control of young people needed to be approached in a better manner.

12. What do you think you gained from the Essex Experience?



As a consequence of the training, what are you doing now that you wouldn't have done before?

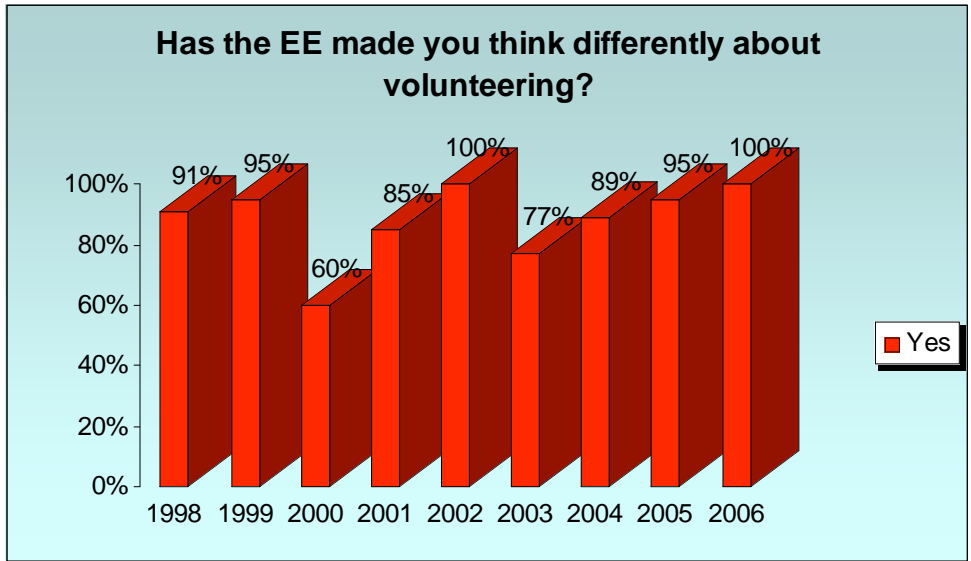
- Thinking about my leadership style.
- I planning things in a lot more detail now.
- I have more confidence when meeting new people for work purposes.
- Dealing with people better.
- Giving suggestions at work.
- To be more honest with myself.
- I'm being a bit more assertive in my job and also trying not to be pushed around by my colleagues.
- I take other people's opinions into consideration slightly more than before.
- Where I need to work with others in a small team.
- I now don't see myself and 11-16 year olds as two separate groups. I see them as those I can teach new skills to and share experiences with.
- Willing to give everything crazy a go. And also just being able to talk to people who are much older and feel confident.
- Considering a career as a social worker after University.
- When dealing with young people I now have a different approach, which is proving very valuable.
- I view youth in a different way instead of placing them all the same heading. Looking for more volunteering work.
- I let young people have their say – listen to them more. I have learnt to have more patience with people.
- I'm putting the training into practice and would like to be more involved with young people.
- As a direct result of the Essex Experience I have joined a youth organisation and spent 6+ hours per week. I would never have got involved without the Essex Experience.

How do you think your employer/future employer has benefited from your involvement?

- I have learnt and improved a number of skills, especially problem solving and working within a team.

- I'm now better at communicating my opinions and dealing with difficult situations, so I think that helps in the working environment.
- A "rounder" understanding of people from all walks of life.
- I'm more confident and more likely to give suggestions in different situations, e.g. at work and University.
- Perhaps more understanding of young people in the criminal justice system.
- I think my employer will benefit from my improved confidence and assertiveness.
- Because of the skills that I have learnt. Not everyone will have such a good understanding of what we learnt on the course.
- Very specifically if I'm working with young people. I have a lot more experience and knowledge.
- The experience is invaluable.
- Due to take over a young person strategy liaison function.
- The teamwork has proved invaluable. I have really learnt the importance of a united front.
- It's given me an insight into the trouble young people face in society today.
- They get more out of me; I have a positive attitude to others.
- More understanding and can organise my time management better and also able to listen to other people's point of view. I was the first person in the organisation to attend the Essex Experience. I gained much from the project and the company has now decided to send more people next year.

13. Has the project made you think more about volunteering?



What commitment would you be prepared to give?



Are you planning any voluntary work as a result of attending the Essex Experience?

Yes 81%

- Scouts
- Air Cadets
- Mentoring youth offenders
- Samaritans
- Essex Experience
- A school with young people having learning difficulties
- Millennium Volunteers
- DofE
- School Governor
- Camp America
- National Trust

14. Would you recommend the Essex Experience to friends?

Yes 100%

Would you come back in another role, e.g. as part of the Activities Team?

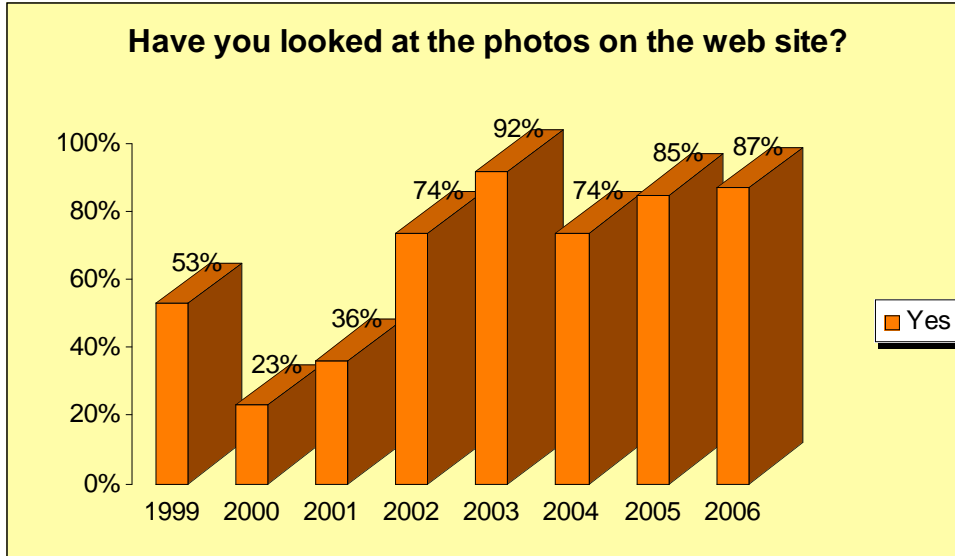
Yes 95%

Would you come back as part of the Challenge Weekend Team?

Yes 86%%

15. Have you looked at the Essex Experience photos on the Essex Scouts web-site?

Yes 87%



16. Did you take the opportunity to become a Millennium Volunteer?

Yes 29%

17. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improving future Essex Experiences, not covered in the questions above?

- The camp was amazing. It was better than what I had expected and I will always remember it. I learnt many new skills and made lots of friends. I would just like to thank everyone who made the week so good and I would love to do the camp again next year.
- Thank you, brilliant experience. Still buzzing.
- I have nothing but praise for the whole Essex Experience team. I think it is such a valuable experience for all involved.
- The Essex Experience was so professional; it was excellent for everyone. All the hard work that went into the week I felt paid off when you saw and heard the young people on Sunday that didn't want to go home. I will be recommending the Essex Experience to others so hopefully you will get a lot more volunteers next year. I thank you for giving me the opportunity of being part of the Essex Experience.
- Thank you for the opportunity to do the course, it taught me a lot about myself if nothing else. I will always remember it, good and bad. I am really thankful to all that were there and the support of the trainers and tutors.
- We had a time constraint problem on Friday. I wish the whole training programme could be finished by Friday 10.00 am. This would allow time to prepare for the sub-camp. Overall I enjoyed the whole week. I made lots of friends and learnt lots.
- Overall a memorable and educational time. Would be interested in returning next year as a Tutor.
- It was an amazing experience and I learnt a lot about myself and I'm willing to participate again next year. Also, a reunion at Skreens Park would be great to see everyone again and discuss the experience.