



Guidance notes

for the YHA Breaks Programmes





YHA's Breaks Programme exists to enable young people and families facing adversity to access life-changing experiences. These guidance notes will help you to complete your application form.

How can we help?

YHA's Breaks Programmes focus on young people who would not be able to access a short break or holiday without our help.

Who can apply?

Each programme has a set of detailed criteria for applicants. Full details can be found online and are also available from the YHA Breaks Team.

We offer support to both families and groups. as follows:

1. Challenging Places
Assisting those in areas of highest deprivation
2. Challenging Lives
Assisting young people experiencing: disability, a life-limiting or life-threatening condition; homelessness or living in temporary accommodation; bereavement (either the loss of a parent or sibling); life as a young carer; life as the sibling of a disabled child, or a child who has life-limiting or life-threatening illness; a low family income (where the family is in receipt of tax credits or benefits).
3. Family Breaks
Assisting families experiencing financial difficulties, bereavement, disability, life-threatening illness and other opportunity-limiting factors.
4. Educational
Assisting up to 10 pupils eligible for pupil premium. We also encourage applicants to outline additional challenges these young people face to add weight to applications and help us ensure we are reaching those most in need.

How do I complete an application?

Completed forms can be emailed or posted to us using the contact details on the back of this leaflet. If you need any help completing your application, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Available dates and locations

We provide breaks at some of our most iconic and inspiring locations. We choose properties and dates which we believe are best suited to meet the needs of families and groups. You'll find a list of selected locations online at [yha.org.uk/support-programmes](https://www.yha.org.uk/support-programmes). If you have special circumstances that mean none of these properties are suitable, please get in touch with the team to discuss your enquiry.

For general information about our properties and answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.yha.org.uk/faqs.

What is meant by 'severe poverty'?

We aim to support families and young people struggling to meet everyday costs, the people who are unable to access a break away without our support.

Where we are unable to help

Unfortunately our resources are limited so we must focus on assisting young people living the most challenging lives. We are unable to help every applicant.

We are unable to help young people in local authority care. This is because local authorities have a general duty to meet the needs of the child. We do however work with local authorities and private care providers to organise and support looked after children.



We can help in other ways

If we cannot provide Breaks Programme assistance, please talk to our specialist group reservations team who will try to make a break as affordable as possible. Call **01629 592 705** for a quote.

Which groups can apply?

Our aim is to support young people with histories of challenging circumstances. Schools, registered charities, community and voluntary organisations can apply on the behalf of any individual or group of young people who meet our criteria. Schools and groups can reapply annually as long as the application is for a different group of young people.

Family applications

We aim to support families experiencing significant hardship. Please see the Family Breaks application form for full details.

How often can we help?

All support is discretionary and subject to the availability of funds.

- We will consider applications for a Family Break once a year
- Group applicants can apply for a new group annually

What information do I need to include?

The supporting statement you provide gives us the information we need to make an informed decision.

Please give full details about the young people for whom you are seeking support, with particular emphasis on the challenges and issues they currently face.

The information you provide will remain strictly confidential. If you are unable to provide supporting details, please explain your reasons on the application and we will contact you for more information.

YHA prioritise applications that provide evidence of young people who are experiencing exceptionally difficult circumstances. Examples of evidence which identifies the need for support could include bereavement, the needs of young carers, children who have witnessed domestic violence, substance misuse, those that have experienced homelessness, illness or disability or other crisis situations.

How do I check the progress of my application?

We aim to process applications as quickly as possible and keep applicants updated with their progress. If you have not heard about your application after 12 weeks, please contact us.

Children's stories

Help us make more of a difference by sharing your story. If you are successful and receive support for a trip away, we'd be grateful if you'd share your views on the difference that the Breaks Programme has made to you and the young people in your care.

It's vital that we are able to evidence and demonstrate our impact on young people's lives; it helps us raise awareness and secure future funding.

We use feedback to shape the way we work with young people and families and we're passionate about continually improving our services.



To apply, and for more information, please get in touch:

YHA Communities, YHA (England & Wales), Trevelyan House, Dimple Road, Matlock DE4 3YH
Freephone: 0800 0191 700 | Call: 01629 592 723 | Email: breaks@yha.org.uk

We are YHA. We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

Because where you go changes who you become.

stay | join | give | volunteer

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