Young people join forces with Staffordshire veterans

Friday 20 July, 2018

Young people from Staffordshire and Germany have once again teamed up with local veterans and members of the Staffordshire Regimental Association (Hednesford Branch) to tend to the war graves on Cannock Chase.

The Project forms part of two weeks' worth of commemorations with the German War Graves Commission in Staffordshire which has been taking place since 1962.

The young people, all aged 16 and 17 use this opportunity to improve their language skills, build new friendships, learn more about the history of the World Wars, and be involved in projects that concentrate on the theme of peace and reconciliation.

Joe, 17 from Stafford said "The project gives us a chance to explore local history on a new level as well as allowing us to make friends for life from new parts of the world. This is truly a one of a kind experience that I would not change for the world."

During the exchange the teenagers will spend time cleaning and tidying the graves at the German Military Cemetery and will learn about the lives of some of the soldiers buried there. They will visit the National Memorial Arboretum and take part in the Litany of Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. There will also be time for fun with leisure activities across Staffordshire including a trip to Alton Towers and Beaudesert Activity Centre.

Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) has been responsible for organising the annual camp since 2015. As an organisation they support the local voluntary children, young people and families sector, and also deliver several youth engagement activities.

SCVYS Chief Executive, Phil Pusey said: "We are very excited to be part of this important international partnership. The project allows young people to work with and learn from veterans of war. The project continues to build on friendships, peace and ongoing collaboration between Staffordshire and Germany".

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