Lee Cutts, 22

Lee has been volunteering with The Beck, Leeds for the past 5 years. He began as a participant at The Beck at aged 16, and a year later began volunteering after developing a keen interest in sport as a career. Lee’s volunteering role initially involved supporting participants within sports sessions, wearing the Volunteer kit and promoting the sports sessions to people within the local community.

Lee’s commitment and passion for volunteering meant that he quickly progressed into a Senior Volunteer, taking on a lead role within sessions, and planning events. Lee also took on a lead role in the development of the Network Rail project, attending different training and visiting local schools to promote rail safety.

After taking a year out to go travelling, Lee returned home and began a Full Time volunteer placement with the Beck, volunteering for 20 hours per week. Lee worked on Doorstep Sports Clubs and an Alternative Education programme. Lee also completed Employability training, and delivered his own Social Action Fund project. This included the development of a cook book with a team of volunteers at the beck, which involved attending a cooking group and writing up the recipes every week, as well as researching other cook books, nutritional information, and key staples for your storage cupboard. This is still in progress and due to complete in September ready to publish and sell in local Cooperative shops (A deal which Lee has secured).

As a part of his SAF project Lee has also developed a
multi skills fitness programmes for beginners, as a result of his training. The group has been successful at attracting 14 new members, many of whom have not taken part in sport before and many have learning difficulties and health problems. Lee will be taking this group forward after his placement is finished, he plans to develop delivery week on week, include trips and do more consultation regarding impact.

Lee strives to continually professionally develop, and over the past 5 years has completed training and qualifications in Pop Up sports, Managing Challenging Behaviour, L1 Basketball, L2 Multi-skills, and more recently L4 PTLLS. Furthermore he has travelled alone to France for an 8 day training programme with leaders from across Europe, which has raised his confidence and aspirations greatly. Lee’s sports coaching skill have improved with experience and qualifications, but his knowledge of processes and admin has been a huge learning curve.

Lee has completed additional training and events in order to support his role at The Beck as much as he can, for example completing confidentiality and training and safeguarding qualifications in order to access the database and support admin and promotional work.
Achievements During 2014

Lee has recently added to his responsibilities by applying for and being selected to be a StreetGames young advisor. In July/August 2014 Lee acted as a Young Advisor supporting the StreetGames Commonwealth Games camp in Glasgow. Lee worked within a team of 17 young advisors supporting the development and delivery of the camp, which saw over 600 young people travel to Glasgow, spend two or three nights at the camp, take part in outdoor pursuits and team building activities, and go and see a Commonwealth Games event. Lee’s main responsibilities at the camp were, ‘putting up/taking down tents, helping in the kitchen and supporting meal times, and general support for StreetGames staff and delivery of evening activities to keep the young people entertained’.

Lee, who recently won the ‘Unsung Hero’ award at the StreetGames Young Volunteer Awards 2014, says that Volunteering makes him feel ‘proud and happy’. The main things that Lee gets out of volunteering are, ‘increased confidence, meeting new people, making new friends, gaining qualifications and the experiences’.

Lee has overcome many challenges to get to where he is today. Many people in Lee’s community have chosen very different path’s in life - In order to volunteer and sustain his work, Lee has continuously overcome peer pressure and opportunity to make bad choices. Lee has struggled to decide which direction to take his education and career in. Lee is now coming to the end of his full time volunteer placement, and his future is looking bright. Lee recently decided he would like to pursue a career in Health, Sport and Wellbeing and in August was accepted to Leeds Metropolitan University to complete a Sport Coaching and Sport Development degree. Lee is both excited and nervous to start something new, but plans to still have an active role volunteering with StreetGames and The Beck going forwards.

StreetGames

StreetGames is a national partner of Sport England and a centre of expertise for developing doorstep sport in disadvantaged communities. The charity supports community based sports projects that deliver sport and volunteering opportunities to young people living in the 20% most deprived wards in the UK.

StreetGames works with National Governing Bodies of Sport to establish and develop links between community and mainstream sport. Recognised by the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Inspire Mark, StreetGames is creating a lasting legacy of doorstep sport in the UK.