

THE BLAKE SHIELD BNA TRUST FUND

The Blake Shield Competition has three sections:

The Otter Award– The award for the 5 - 8 age group, with an adult team leader; e.g. Schools, Beavers, Rainbows and Watch Groups for a natural history or conservation project. The winning team will be able to keep the specially engraved trophy for one year. There will also be other prizes for the winning group and individual participants.

The Ward Cup – The award for the 7 - 11 age group, (Key Stage 2), with an adult team leader; e.g. Schools, Cubs, Brownies and Watch Groups for a natural history or conservation project. As well as the specially engraved Cup (which the winning team will be able to keep for one year) there will also be other prizes for the winning group and individual participants.

The Blake Shield – The award for the 10 - 16 age group (includes Key Stages 3 & 4), with an adult team leader; e.g. Schools, Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Guides and Watch Groups for a natural history or conservation project. In addition to the prestigious Shield (which the winning team will keep for one year) there will be other prizes for the winning group and individual participants.

The Project - Each section of the Competition aims to recognise the merits of the living world of which we are a part. **The project should be a product of team activity.**

Woods, plants, heaths and all the other environments that need care and conservation are best looked after when we know something of the wildlife that inhabits them.

Your interest may focus on plants, insects, birds or other animals. Perhaps you will concentrate on a particular species, or improve a piece of your home environment. However you tackle your work, the judges of the different sections of the Competition would like to see a report that records the activities of your group, the observations made and the new things learned. Photographs, pictures and paintings may be an important part of your report. You can also send a video, CD or cassette recording of your activities but please limit these to no more than 15 minutes.

Calling teachers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Why not take advantage of the opportunity that the different sections of the Competition present to develop experimental and investigative science in the *National Curriculum* at your school.

Calling teachers in Scotland. The Competition presents an ideal opportunity to develop the component investigating the Ecosystem in the Topic on the Biosphere.

Calling Explorer Scout, Scout, Guide, Cub, Beaver, Brownie and Rainbow leaders. The Competition could be the route to badges or other awards that recognise your contributions. World conservation, science & nature are important frameworks for environmental education.

Whether you teach or if you are involved in the development of young people the Blake Shield Awards are an excellent means of providing goals for your young people and putting them in touch with today's leading conservationists and environmentalists - Professor David Bellamy and the Blake Shield Team are waiting to hear from you.

How to enter - To apply to enter one of the Competition sections, please either complete and return the attached form, e-mail blakeshield@btopenworld.com for a form or visit the Blake Shield section which can be found in the competition part of our website: www.bna-naturalists.org and complete the online form. Registrations should be made by **1st July**. Completed projects should be received by **1st October**.

The Blake Shield Team.