

Learn new skills!

Reviews: Amazing activity weeks

There are some great activity weeks out there, but don't just take our word for it – find out what the participants have said!

1 PGL Learner Driver Course

Boreatton Park, Shropshire

Have you always wanted to learn to drive, but you haven't turned 17 yet? Don't worry – this six-day activity course is for 13–16-year-olds! As I've wanted to get behind the wheel for years, this was the perfect opportunity! I really was allowed to drive a proper car – a Mini Cooper, no less! Obviously we didn't drive on real roads, but we had plenty of practice every morning at a special off-road location. Have I passed my test yet? No, I haven't – unfortunately that's not legal yet! But I have learnt how to drive and park the car, and how to pass the theory test. As well as that, I tried quad-biking and go-karting, and made some great new friends! 😊

Alice (14)



2 Root Camp Cookery Course

Locations include Hereford, Suffolk, Scotland

Whether you've been a mini-chef for years or you've just started cooking, I'd definitely recommend Root Camp. I've learnt to bake bread, catch fish and survive for a week without Wi-Fi! Honestly, it was great fun meeting everyone else and camping on the Isle of Bute in Scotland. I've enjoyed cooking since I was a kid, but I never realised it could be so creative! This course has definitely inspired me. Since coming home, I've experimented with some new dishes. I've uploaded photos of them on Instagram – have a look [here!](#) (By the way, this six-day residential course is for 15–21-year-olds.) 😊

Ben (16)



3 Fire Tech Robotics Course

Lancing College, Brighton

I've just finished a Robotics course at Fire Tech. What an amazing week! If you've ever wanted to master robotics, this is the course for you. I've learnt to design my own robot, build it using a VEX IQ kit, and program it in the ROBOTC language. It was very hands-on and we tested our robots in real competitions. We worked in teams and it was really exciting to see whose robots would win. I also learnt to write computer code. This one-week course is for under-17s, and other Fire Tech courses include app design, video game design and digital music production. I've already put them on my wish list! Cora (15)



► Subskill: Scanning for specific information

When you scan a text, you read it very quickly to look for specific information. It doesn't matter if you don't understand all the words.

3 Read the subskill information. Then scan the reviews and copy and complete the table.

Activity week	1	2	3
Age	1 (...)	2 (...)	3 (...)
Number of days	4 (...)	5 (...)	6 (...)

4  11 Read and listen to the text. Make a list of at least three new skills that Alice, Ben and Cora have learnt during the activity weeks.

Alice: how to **drive**, (...)

Ben: how to (...)

Cora: how to (...)

5 **Word work** Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 try new ideas or methods (v)
- 2 practical (adj)
- 3 drive (an expression with v+n)
- 4 become an expert at something (v)
- 5 when you live at the place you're studying (adj)
- 6 not on real roads (adj)