

Abstract No. 2.3

Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 14:15-15:00

**Title: Friends from the wild: Developing relationships through ongoing outdoor activities**

Presenter: Joseph Gibson, Deafblind Outdoors, Norway  
Co-presenters: Sofia Kristoffersen Nystuen, Norway  
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Main focus: Mainly practice, Congenital deafblindness

Abstract: Friluftkurs is a week long course for young people held in Norway with the aim of creating an environment where young deafblind people can “be together” and develop their common interests in outdoor activities, learn from and with each other and have new experiences that strengthen their friendships. The course has been a great success especially in developing meaningful relationships among the participants, which have continued beyond the course.

The course has run for eight years and in that time there has been five participants with two who have attended all of the meetings. While all the various benefits that outdoor activities can offer have been noticed at different times this workshop will take a holistic look at the elements of social connectedness that have been observed over the eight years both with the group itself and externally. We will give an overview of the course describing the typical activities and other elements such as the support staff before focusing on the relationships, in particular the relationships between the participants.