



Indiana - Tree planting for the future

What was your goal and what did you want to achieve?

My goal was to work with my old primary school to plant trees with them and teach them about recycling. I contacted my old school and got permission to spend a couple of days with them planting trees and reading books. I also made some posters.

Who else did you work with?

I worked with the primary school and their Principal. I also worked with another teacher that is retired who came in and helped me because she started the tree project there 17 years ago. The school got in touch with Trees for Life and got the trees from them. They also helped me to organise photo permission forms so I could take photos.

What was your biggest success?

My biggest success was getting all the students and teachers involved in tree planting, it was really great. I also got lots of photos to document what we were doing.

What did you find challenging?

My school wasn't very accepting of me taking time off of school to be in the YEC and do extra projects. However, I was able to get around that because I just didn't take no for an answer! I learnt to just keep going and not to give up.

I persevered and spoke to other people to help me figure out what my options were.

How have you shared your work?

I have shared my project through social media, TikTok and Instagram. I also went to AYCC's Power Shift summit and I promoted everything through there. That was a big promotion for everything I've achieved.

What did you enjoy most?

Seeing the kids happy, because a lot of them had never planted a tree before. Once they knew how to do it they didn't just plant one tree, they planted 10 or 20! They loved it and it was wonderful.

Next steps?

My project will never be finished because it is continuing on from a project started 17 years ago. It will continue forever as other people will take on the project once I move on to bigger things.

Your advice to other students?

Get as many contacts as you can. Don't just go to one person because they might say no and tell you to give up, but just keep going!

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Indiana's words and opinions.