



Press Release

20 July 2020

For immediate release

Tak It Hame

Hillwalkers and climbers urged to help keep hills clear of litter

Mountaineering Scotland is asking hill walkers and climbers to help keep Scotland's hills and mountains clear of litter and to 'Tak It Hame'.

Tak It Hame 2020 is being launched as coronavirus lockdown eases and the lifting of travel restrictions has seen much publicity about littering and 'dirty camping' in some of Scotland's most popular beauty spots.

Following the success of Tak It Hame in 2019, it had been planned to relaunch the campaign in early spring to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Mountaineering Scotland. But due to the Coronavirus lockdown, that was put on hold along with all outdoor activities.

Now that travel restrictions are lifted and with the re-opening of tourism in Scotland, Tak It Hame aims to support the national anti-littering campaign 'Scotland is stunning – let's keep it that way' by encouraging everyone who goes walking or climbing in Scotland's hills to take responsibility for keeping our world-renowned mountain landscapes beautiful by taking litter home for proper disposal and recycling. The message is simple – "If we don't do it, who will?"

Davie Black, Access and Conservation Officer for Mountaineering Scotland said: "When we launched the Tak It Hame campaign alongside our Conservation Strategy in June 2019, we hoped that our members and clubs would get involved and that it might start to reach the wider hill-walking and mountaineering community. In fact, it reached much further than we ever expected, with people from all over Scotland and the UK contacting us and wanting to get involved.

"Many of Mountaineering Scotland's affiliated clubs organised litter picks, and many individuals – both members and non-members - shared photos on social media of the litter they had removed from the hills, using the #TakItHame hashtag. It was really encouraging to see how people got behind the campaign and that's why we are keen to get it back up and running again this year."

Hill-goers are encouraged to take a suitable bag in their backpack each time they venture out, which they can use to take litter away for recycling or disposal. As part of the campaign, Mountaineering Scotland is also asking people to think about how they could reduce their use of packaging for drinks, snacks and packed lunches, and find alternatives to single use plastics and food wrap.

Ends

Notes for editors:

Image: Mountaineering Scotland's Access & Conservation Officer Davie Black (centre) during a 2019 litter pick on Conic Hill, Loch Lomond.

<http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/DSC00878.JPG>

Further information contact:

Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 07444545293 or neil@mountaineering.scot

About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the national representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,500 members and is funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland also runs the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sport climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP
- Website: www.mountaineering.scot