



News Release from St John Scotland and Mountaineering Scotland

Attention: News Editors

4 June 2018

Safeguarding students in the hills

Partnership extended to help more learn mountaineering skills

A partnership which has seen hundreds of students learn potentially lifesaving safe mountaineering skills has been extended for a further two years.

Mountaineering Scotland has hosted the post of Mountain Safety Instructor, which is funded by charity St John Scotland, since 2015. In that time more than 340 young people from 12 university mountaineering, climbing and hillwalking clubs have received safety training led by experienced mountaineer Nick Carter.

Nick takes the courses in some of the country's most challenging mountain terrain, including the An Teallach area, Cairngorms, Glencoe, Creag Meagaidh, and Lochaber.

In winter, students are taught skills including avalanche awareness, ice axe arrest and cramponing, while training during the autumn and spring months provides the chance to learn scrambling and rock climbing. Nick also helps the clubs brush up on their navigation skills, and advises on choosing the right kit for the conditions.

Now Mountaineering Scotland and St John Scotland have committed to extending the project further, enabling more young people to learn how to keep themselves safe on the mountains.

St John Scotland Mountain Safety Instructor Nick Carter said: "I'm very pleased that the project has been extended. I'm looking forward to working with more university and college groups across the country, and helping to make sure the groups feel prepared to lead expeditions safely.

"I really enjoy working with the clubs, and helping them to learn to enjoy the Scottish mountain environment in a safe way. And I'm sure in the long run the project will help reduce accidents in the hills."

Students who have attended the training weekends so far have rated their experience highly. Ross Brannigan, a student from University of Stirling, said: "We had an incredible experience with Nick in the hills surrounding Torridon in March. We learned a massive amount in terms of planning, navigation, analysing risk and working as a team."

Given the success of the project, it was something both Mountaineering Scotland and St John Scotland were keen to extend.

Angus Loudon, Executive Director of St John Scotland, said: "We are delighted with Nick's work over the past three years as the St John Scotland Mountain Safety Instructor. At St John Scotland we have

a long established link with mountain safety, having been one of the biggest supporters of Scottish Mountain Rescue teams for the past two decades. Our continued support for this project will help to strengthen that link.

“The training Nick provides will help keep a whole generation of young climbers in Scotland safe, and we look forward to continuing to work with him and the team at Mountaineering Scotland to build on the success of the project so far.”

Mountaineering Scotland CEO Stuart Younie said: “Promoting safety in the Scottish Mountains is one of our core priorities and we are delighted to be continuing our successful partnership with St John Scotland to extend this project. Nick takes an innovative approach going out to work directly with student clubs to provide them an opportunity to learn valuable new skills but in a fun and accessible way. This project has been a great addition to our mountain safety training programme and we hope many more students benefit from the experience of working with Nick and go on to enjoy the Scottish mountains whilst keeping themselves safe.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Further information

St John Scotland: www.stjohnscotland.org.uk

Mountaineering Scotland: www.mountaineering.scot

St John Scotland Mountain Safety Instructor on Twitter: twitter.com/StJohnScotMSI and Facebook: www.facebook.com/StJohnScotMSI/

About St John Scotland

- St John Scotland is a Scottish charity dedicated to saving and enhancing life.
- Formed in 1947, we're headquartered in Edinburgh and have twelve Area teams across the country, each with their own projects and activities.
- St John Scotland has been one of the biggest contributors to Scottish Mountain Rescue teams over the past two decades. We will have donated more than £3.2 in funding, largely to provide rescue bases and vehicles, by 2020.
- We support the provision of Public Access Defibrillators across Scotland, working with local community groups and organisations to increase access to the life-saving devices. Our Edinburgh area team of volunteers also run the successful St John and the City public access defibrillator project, which has seen more than 135 defibrillators placed across Edinburgh.
- We run CPR training sessions to train people in life saving techniques, and our trained volunteer First Responder teams work with the Scottish Ambulance Service to deal with emergency situations in their own area until the arrival of paramedics.
- St John Scotland Patient Transport teams operate in Dumfries and Galloway, Angus and Tayside, and Fife, ensuring people arrive safely and on time for hospital appointments.

About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- 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 14,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, 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 has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports 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.
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