



Press Release

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For immediate release

New mountaineering and climbing awards launched

Mountaineering Council of Scotland searches for inspirational climbers and volunteers

The body which represents hill-walkers, climbers and mountaineers in Scotland is looking for two heroes who represent what's best about their activity.

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland has launched two new awards: the ClimbScotland Young Climber of the Year, and the MCoFS Volunteer of the Year.

The Young Climber award is to celebrate a young person whose talent, enthusiasm and commitment to climbing inspires other young people to start or to progress in climbing.

And the Volunteer of the Year looks to recognise someone who has made a significant contribution to Scottish mountaineering through MCoFS or other relevant activities.

MCoFS President Mike Watson said: "We now have almost 13,000 members in the MCoFS, and want to do something to recognise and celebrate those members who have made a real difference to Scottish mountaineering and climbing.

"The volunteer award will be a well-deserved 'thank-you' to someone who offers their time, experience and skills for the benefit of their fellow hill walkers, climbers or mountaineers, or for the mountain landscapes we all cherish.

"And, with climbing being such a fast-growing sport, we're looking for the most inspirational of the up-and-coming generation of climbers. They're not necessarily the *best* climbers, and they might receive the award for competition climbing, coaching, or other mountaineering or club activities, but the key thing we are looking for is that spark that makes other young people want to get out there and participate."

The trophies for both awards have been specially commissioned from acclaimed Edinburgh glass artist Emma Butler Cole Aitken. Her colourful creations, showing a young climber on a climbing wall, and a mountaineer reaching out to assist his companions, were chosen from over 20 submissions by talented artists and craftspeople.

Nominations for either award should be made online at <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/awards-2016.asp> before 31 July 2016, and the winners will be announced at the MCoFS AGM in Perth on 24 September.

Ends

Notes for editors

Images for this press release are downloadable here:

Mike Watson, MCoFS President

www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/mike_watson_image.jpg

The new awards

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/MCoFS_awards - Climber and Volunteer.JPG](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/MCoFS_awards_-_Climber_and_Volunteer.JPG)

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/Volunteer of the Year Award.JPG](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/Volunteer_of_the_Year_Award.JPG)

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/Young Climber of the Year Award.JPG](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/Young_Climber_of_the_Year_Award.JPG)

Further information

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About the MCoFS

- The MCoFS acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- The MCoFS is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- The MCoFS is a membership organisation with over 12,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- The MCoFS also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- MCoFS landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- The MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP