

...press release

Date: 18th May 2009



The Scout Association is delighted to today announce Bear Grylls is the tenth and youngest Chief Scout of the United Kingdom and Overseas Territories.

- Mission to massively increase the number of adult Leaders in the Movement and to continue to grow the Movement in size
- Committed to reinforcing Scouting's role as the place to offer adventure based activities to young people
- Youngest Chief Scout ever

Scouting has adventure at its core and Bear is one of the UK's great outdoor adventurers; he is also a strong supporter of young people as seen via his work with international children's charity, Global Angels. As Chief Scout, a position he will hold for five years, Bear will be the volunteer Leader of the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country: Scouting has around half a million Members including some 90,000 adult Leaders.

During his term, Bear aims to inspire more and more adults to volunteer for Scouting and is committed to reinforcing Scouting's role as the place to offer adventure based activities to young people. Bear's commitment to massively increasing the number of adult Leaders in the Scout Movement comes at a time when waiting lists to join Scout Groups across the UK remain at an all-time high: currently more than 33,000 young people aged between six and 25 are waiting to join Scouting in the UK and 371 of those are based in Humberside.

However, for every new adult that volunteers five more young people will have the chance to participate in Scouting. So we only need 6,600 adults, which equates to just 0.01% of the UK's adult population, signing up to completely wipe out our current waiting list.

Bear was appointed yesterday by The Council of the Scout Movement at a special meeting in London.

In the role of Chief Scout, Bear is tasked with promoting the policies and benefits of Scouting, and encouraging new adults to join the Movement.

Previously, as one of the youngest ever climbers to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, Bear is now the youngest person ever to become Chief Scout. He will be invested at a handover ceremony with outgoing Chief Scout Peter Duncan later in the year.

Newly appointed Chief Scout Bear Grylls said:

"I feel hugely honoured to be asked to take up this role as Chief Scout - it really is a dream come true. I have always loved helping young people live their dreams and to

taste real adventure... as well as getting caked in mud! I also hope I can use this post to encourage masses of adults in the UK to volunteer as leaders. The young people in this country need them like never before, and we have more people wanting to join than there are places available. But by volunteering, adults can actively make a difference to young people's lives in their community, and there is no better way to be part of an adventure and have loads of fun, than with the Scouts."

"The Scout Movement is a world-wide force for good and at heart it says that young people have the right to an adventure. And I for one am so proud to be part of that."

Joe Hunter, a Scout Leader aged 18 from West Hull said:

"Scouting is about pursuing adventure and there is plenty going on in that department. At weekly group meetings Scouts can take part in activities ranging from cooking, photography and computing to paragliding, rock climbing and water skiing; as well as the traditional hiking and campfire cooking! I think this suits Bear well, he is exactly what Scouting is about."

Outgoing Chief Scout Peter Duncan said:

"I have gained enormously from my experience as volunteer Chief Scout over the past five years. I have particularly connected to the grass roots and have enjoyed seeing the adventurous and environmental awareness aspects of scouting increase during my time as leader. I have learnt so much being part of a large organisation, honing the skills of presentation, thinking on my feet and discovering how to communicate an inspirational message for young people. As a working actor I think Bear Grylls is the most brilliant piece of recasting I have ever been involved in. I wish him great success."

-ENDS-

Editor's Notes

- Scouting is the world's largest co-educational youth organisation with over 28 million members, boys and girls, across 216 countries and territories.
- The aim of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential through the provision of exciting and adventurous activities.

More Information

For further information please contact myself, Joe Hunter, via email (joehunter14@yahoo.com) or by giving me a call on 07903195772.

Photo:

