

YOUNGSTERS in the MOUNTAINS awards

Modest awards are available under the High Sports **Youngsters in the Mountains** scheme - supported by the High Sports annual Winter programme of lectures, fund raising events and donations from individuals. The awards are intended to help young people realise ambitions. With an enthusiastic personal involvement in mountain sports dating back to my teens and still going, a teaching background, my years as the proprietor of High Sports and as a parent I have always been devoted to introducing youngsters into the exciting and healthy world of mountain sports and pastimes. Like many post war children I came from a proud working class family. At the age of 17 I applied for and won a £50 award to enabled me to visit the Alps for the first time, very much on a shoestring, where I spent a fantastic summer alone climbing some of the peaks I had read so avidly about. The entrusted award, as small as it was, gave me a freedom to live my dreams and the encouragement to pursue a love of the mountains which to this day is just as strong.



Any young person from the Shropshire, Telford, Wrekin & Powys area, under the age of 18 years, interested in mountain related activities can apply for an award. Each applicant will be asked to complete a simple proposal form and perhaps attend an informal interview. The awards will be made at the discretion of a selection panel.

The selection panel will have an open mind as to the sort of proposals it will support with fundamental consideration for: **How would an award make a difference ?** For instance a £50 award may purchase a key item of kit enabling a young person to progress in their mountain sport or £100 will make the difference that allows someone to graduate from climbing in Wales to exploring Scottish crags or continental peaks for the first time - **Is the proposed activity related to the mountains** walking, climbing, orienteering, canoeing, expedition projects etc.. and in the spirit intended ? - **Is the applicant motivated ?**. Modest or exotic ambition - it's about **EXPANDING HORIZONS**.

Award conditions

- Awards are not restricted to a particular time of the year, they will be considered as and when applications are made - until the fund is used up.
- Awards are intended to encourage pursuits and activities. Anyone seeking support for voluntary work or scientific endeavour is advised to explore other possible sources of funding.
- Application forms are available from High Sports and accepted with a teacher reference.
- Due to limited funds the maximum award will be no more than £100 per individual recipient.
- Candidates will be notified as soon as possible if their application warrants an interview but the decision of the selection panel will be final.
- Successful candidates must be prepared to offer up a short report (verbal, written, photographic or whatever) after the money has been spent and how it helped them, good or bad.

Obviously the decision as to who gets an award will not be easy, but we hope to entrust them to those who genuinely need it and not those who just want a new piece of kit or to top up their holiday fund. Please if you can help with donating towards the fund, offering up names and suggestions please contact myself. Thank you for your support. **STUART CATHCART**.



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