



Raleigh launches new Youth Forum

14 August 2008

Whilst young people across the country will be enjoying the final few weeks of their summer holiday, young Raleigh alumni ventured to London today to attend the charity's first ever Youth Forum.

Youth and education charity Raleigh has been running expeditions to off-the-beaten-track destinations around the world since 1984. More than 30,000 young people worldwide have volunteered to take part in Raleigh expeditions working on community and environmental projects in developing countries.

Raleigh set up its Youth Forum to provide an official channel to engage with young people and to ensure that their ideas and suggestions are heard. Focusing on how the charity can improve the expedition experience for participants, the Forum will also discuss opportunities for alumni to volunteer on return from their expedition.

The Forum will equip members with new skills, such as developing confidence in group settings; the ability to chair meetings and work autonomously; and the opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds and at different professional levels.

Youth Forum member, Angharad Jones, who went on expedition with Raleigh to Namibia in 2007, said: "The Youth Forum is an excellent way for past venturers to continue to promote the Raleigh ethos and to continue the good work back at home. Raleigh means so many different things. I see Raleigh as an opportunity to meet, befriend and work with people from backgrounds and cultures a world away from your own. What really embodies Raleigh and makes it special for me, is everyone's positive attitude, energy, and genuine desire to see the fun and the best in everyone and everything. There is no failure, only work in progress. Do something well and everyone is happy for you, and proud because they all helped you get there. Fall short, and congratulations- you've found a foundation on which you can build something new."

Stacey Adams, Raleigh's Chief Executive, said: "We are passionate about creating a community of global citizens. Young people learn so much on a Raleigh expedition and come home buzzing with new ideas and a sense of purpose. We want to harness this energy and feed it back into our organisation. The Youth Forum is a great way for young people to have a say in how we develop as a charity. It enables us to learn from young people and ensure that we can build on their enthusiasm and ideas."

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Notes to Editors:



Raleigh

Raleigh is a youth and education charity. Since 1984 our expeditions have inspired 30,000 people from all walks of life, nationalities and ages to be all they can be, helping them develop new skills, friendships and make a difference to communities and environments across the world.

We all have an expedition inside us. Find yours at www.raleighinternational.org

Youth Forum

Raleigh was founded on four challenges:

1. To be selected (today there is a self-selection process in place)
2. To raise the funds
3. To go on expedition
4. To make a difference on your return

The purpose of the Youth Forum is to provide an official channel for young people to engage with Raleigh and to ensure that their ideas and suggestions are heard. Young people will be given the opportunity to comment on the four challenges and how Raleigh can improve the expedition experience. It will encourage young people to get involved with the fourth challenge and to volunteer in the UK on return from expedition.