

## Homesickness is top tearjerker with Y Generation gappers

11 August 2008

Teenagers planning on globetrotting after they open their A' Level results this week, shouldn't forget to pack the tissues – as family is the number one thing that young people miss most while travelling, a new poll conducted by leading youth and education charity Raleigh has discovered.

Published in July, the new survey of 832 Raleigh alumni found that 30.7 per cent missed their nearest and dearest more than anything else whilst on the charity's four- to ten-week expeditions to destinations currently including Borneo, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and India. The findings support claims that young people today, or the Y Generation, are finding it harder than ever before to leave their parents behind when they pack their rucksacks bound for intrepid overseas adventures.

After missing Mum and Dad came a hankering for home cooked food, which 23.6 per cent of respondents confessed they longed for. Creature comforts were also yearned after, with a nice toilet being voted for by 21.4 per cent, while a comfy bed received 14.8 per cent of the votes. While Raleigh expeditions are alcohol-free, less than 10 per cent of respondents said that they pined to go to the pub. Surprisingly, the latest episodes of *Skins* and *Scrubs* barely got a look in, with just 0.3 per cent of young people claiming they missed the television.

Members of the Y Generation – defined as those born between 1982 and 2002 – typically live at home longer, often until they are well into their 20s, due to factors including the introduction of university tuition fees and sky-high house prices. While this so-called 'internet generation' have been praised for being more ambitious, demanding and confident in speaking their mind than generations before, young people today have faced criticism for being less independent – with parents now having more say in the higher education, career choices and travel plans of their children.

"The fact that higher education is now so expensive has increased the levels of financial dependency of young people on their families. Technology has added to this by ensuring that you are never out of touch," Stacey Adams, Raleigh's Chief Executive, commented.

Adams, who is herself the mother of a 19-year-old gap year student who recently returned from a Raleigh expedition to India, continued: "Young people are only ever a text away from their parents. The downside of that is that they don't get the very basic learning of how to get themselves out of difficult situations, manage the risks and keep themselves safe while having adventures.

"We take young people to places so remote that their mobile phones don't work – it helps build their independence and prepares families for the next stage of life when the children will leave the nest. It gives both sides the confidence to know that they can manage their lives apart. Our expeditions aim to discover the spirit of adventure that is in all young people."

Offering a safe, structured and supportive journey with an array of adventurous projects in off-the-beaten-track destinations, it is no surprise that Raleigh has built its reputation over the past quarter century with both parents and young people alike. And while there may still be a few tears from this new band of Y Generation gappers, whether they are planning on going to



News release

university or embarking on a new career, the experience gained from a year out will be more than worth its weight in salty homesick sobs.

**For further information, please contact:**

Anne Grenyer  
PR & Campaigns Manager  
Raleigh  
Tel: 020 7183 1298  
Email: [anne.grenyer@raleigh.org.uk](mailto:anne.grenyer@raleigh.org.uk)

Ends

**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](http://www.raleighinternational.org)