

Raleigh International brings volunteering home

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Youth and education charity Raleigh International has been given significant government support via the **v** match funding programme to set up a unique new scheme. The project will facilitate volunteer work in England for returning overseas volunteers and will enable the charity to create a global community of citizens who are passionate about making a difference in their world.

The funding will allow Raleigh to tackle their 'fourth challenge' and ensure that volunteers can apply their newly developed skills to best advantage at home by making a real difference to their local communities. Raleigh received a £288,000 donation from insurance group Aviva and successfully bid to match fund this from **v**, the youth volunteering charity.

Terry Ryall, **v** Chief Executive, said: "**v** is delighted to be able to provide financial support to Raleigh International through our Match Fund, which will inspire young people to volunteer in England."

Volunteer work in England will be co-ordinated via newly set up Raleigh Societies. All returning volunteers will be encouraged to join or even start their own Raleigh Society and to take advantage of volunteer opportunities, as well as spread the word about volunteering through their own social networks. Project partners for volunteering in England will be carefully selected to reflect young people's varying interests from conservation or heritage work, to community projects. Partners are expected to include The Groundwork Trust, National Trust and People and Planet, as well as Local Authorities. Raleigh aims to assist young people to carry out around 120,000 hours of volunteering over the next two years.

Part of the funding will also be used to set up a Raleigh Youth Forum, to ensure that the views of young participants are well represented both at home and overseas.

"Young people learn so much on a Raleigh International expedition and come home buzzing with new ideas and opportunities, as well as with a real 'can-do' attitude and a sense of purpose," says Raleigh's alumni manager, Debra Hay.

"We want to harness this energy, help young people increase their employability, and encourage them to share their skills with their local communities by providing them with access to real and relevant volunteering opportunities at home."

Raleigh's CEO, Stacey Adams added: "We are taking young people on a journey to become active global citizens and realise their potential.

"Raleigh was founded on four challenges: the challenge to be selected; the challenge to fundraise; the expedition itself, and the challenge to make a difference locally when you come back. As an organisation, one of our key aims is to ensure that all young people – whatever their background – can access new experiences both overseas and at home. This injection of income from **v** will enable Raleigh to implement the fourth challenge with help from our project partners."

"Aviva has a strong commitment to providing both their employees and the communities in which they work with opportunities to learn and give back volunteering experiences, added Russell Martin, HR Director, Norwich Union, an Aviva company.

“We are proud to have been able to contribute funding to Raleigh International for this important stage in their project.”

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For interview opportunities, further comment and high resolution images, please contact Anne Consedine on 0781 804 8438, at anne.consedine@raleigh.org.uk or visit www.raleighinternational.org

Notes to editors:

Raleigh International works with local NGOs, communities and government ministries in all of its expedition countries.

Raleigh International expeditions are open to ‘venturers’, aged 17 to 24, and ‘volunteer managers’, aged 25 and over, from the UK and abroad. Raleigh International runs approximately 10 expeditions a year to Malaysia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and India.

As a registered charity Raleigh International is completely dependent on fundraising activities and as such asks all venturers and volunteer managers to contribute towards the charity’s work and expenses through fundraising.

Raleigh International is a leading expert in structured gap year expeditions and one of the very first organisations to self-assess and certify itself as BS8848 (the new British Standard for overseas expedition safety) compliant.

v is an independent charity set up in 2006 to champion youth volunteering. Its aim is to inspire a new generation of young people aged 16-25 to volunteer. To do this **v** is working to increase the quantity, quality and diversity of volunteering opportunities available to young people. It is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

v is lead by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. An advisory board made up of twenty young people called **v20** is involved in all aspects of the charity’s work. Four members of **v20** sit on **v**’s Board of Trustees.

v has been formed as an independent charity using an innovative new model which allows funds raised from the private sector to be matched by the Government. Up to £50million has been allocated by the Government for this purpose over the next three years.