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## Adventure Grant supports twin brothers to experience outdoor activities in the Cairngorms National Park.

**21<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

*Twin boys, both P7 students from Edinburgh, escaped the city for a week of outdoor adventure at Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, with funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant.*

The Des Rubens and Bill Wallace grant panel were approached by the boy's head teacher who was concerned the brothers wouldn't be able to attend the trip with the rest of their classmates because of financial challenges the family were facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On hearing the news of the grant offer the boy's Father said: "Receiving the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant will allow my sons to go on a school trip of a lifetime to Lagganlia. This week-long trip will take their love of the outdoors to the next level. Taking them out of their comfort zones and away from technology to participate in a batch of unique outdoor learning activities. I hope they will have some incredible adventures and learn some fantastic new life skills in the beautiful surrounding of the Cairngorms National Park. We both touched and grateful for the support and generosity of the John Muir Trust."

The residential experience was the first time the boys had been away from home without their parents and involved a week of outdoor adventures in the outstanding natural beauty of the Cairngorms National Park. With the support of the grant the twins were able to enjoy a week of activities which included hiking, map reading, canoeing, gorge walking and tree climbing – all topped off with a campfire and hot chocolate. The brothers learnt about enjoying the outdoors responsibly, how glaciers make gorges and about the wildlife they encountered such as deer, frogs and owls. Following their adventure the boys sent a trip report and thank you to the grant panel in which one of the brother's described his experience as "One of the best weeks of my life".

Jenny Seaman of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "Des Rubens was a teacher and the grant panel felt that supporting these two young people to have their first residential trip was a fitting way to honour his memory, along with that of Bill Wallace. We hope that this experience is just the start for the brothers and they have a lifetime of adventures ahead."

The twins are amongst eight successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2022. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways which will benefit both the person and the wild places themselves.

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## **Editor's Notes**

### **About The John Muir Trust**

The John Muir Trust is a leading voice for the UK's wild places. Its stewardship of some of Britain's most iconic wild places, including Ben Nevis and Helvellyn, is guided by three freedoms; ensuring nature has the freedom to repair itself, people have the freedom to enjoy the benefits, and communities have the freedom to thrive. For 40 years, the Trust has advocated for the protection of wild places by evidencing their benefit to society. Driven by the belief that wild places are for everyone – it also provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with nature through the John Muir environmental award scheme.

### **ABOUT THE DES RUBENS AND BILL WALLACE GRANT**

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who each led inspiring and adventurous lives. It was set up to give others an opportunity to follow in their footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should be adventurous, have an educational or scientific component and benefit the wild places themselves. In the decade since its inception the grant has made over 60 awards to a wide variety of recipients.

Bill Wallace, died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips.

Des Rubens, was a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh and was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £200 to £2,000 and open to UK applicants of all ages. Closing date for applications is 15 January each year. Further details on how to apply: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/whats-new/grants/des-rubens-and-bill-wallace-grant>

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