

Adventure grant supports plan to solo hike to remote parts of northern Scotland and Sweden

October 2026

George King wants to explore how huts, cabins, bothies and simple shelters could help create more sustainable and equitable access to Scotland's wild places.

Edinburgh-based George King (32) has spent his adult life realising the benefits and importance of the outdoors and finding joy in spending time in wild places on foot or by bike.

George plans to use funding from the **Des Rubens Bill Wallace Grant** to solo hike in Scotland and Sweden in autumn 2026, using the hut facilities. The journeys will be as low impact as possible, using sustainable travel modes wherever possible. He aims to explore how simple shelters – like bothies and huts – aid access to remote parts.

George said: "I'm really grateful for the opportunity to explore simple shelters - like bothies and huts - in remote parts of northern Scotland and Sweden this summer.

"The Grant will support my hikes on two long distance trails - the Cape Wrath Trail and Kungsleden to find out more about the different cultures around the practice of 'hutting'. On these journeys I hope to find out more about how we can improve access to wild places sustainably, and what role simple shelters can play in facilitating that.

"I plan to summarise and share best practice from my journeys, with the hope that learnings can be applied to improve Scotland's bothy network into the future."

The John Muir Trust, which administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, said: "The grant panel is delighted to support an initiative that will explore how people can access wild places in a sustainable way and we look forward to reading George's report."

George's project is one of seven successful applications to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2026. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways that will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

Editor's Notes

About the John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is a UK-based conservation charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing wild places for the benefit of all. The Trust owns and cares for some of the UK's most iconic landscapes, including Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Sandwood Bay and areas within Skye, Knoydart and Assynt. The Trust also runs the John Muir Award, an inclusive environmental award scheme that encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places.

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 adventurous footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should have an educational or scientific component and benefit wild places.

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 was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £500 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>

johnmuirtrust.org