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Date: Thursday, 11 November 2004

Challenging time for Scouts and Guides

Scouts and Guides from all over West Lancashire face a tough test of their skills this weekend when they take part in the 2004 Waddecar Service Crew Challenge'.

Over 100 teams of 3 young people have entered this years event which is centred around Beacon Fell in the Trough of Bowland.

Teams, carrying all their kit, compete against the clock using map and compass to navigate their way through forest terrain in search of secret bases.

At each manned base, teams must draw on their training, knowledge and experience to successfully complete a test or challenge before moving on in search of the next base. The emphasis is on working as a team and combining skills is vital to solve the challenges as quickly as possible.

The actual challenges themselves are a closely guarded secret but teams find themselves faced with a huge range of challenges from traditional to completely off the wall; rescue operations, changing wheels, ski relays, wallpapering and bricklaying are all fair game to the event organisers.

Pete Sturgess, Principal Officer for West Lancashire Scouts said: "The Crew Challenge is a brilliant event. It's a chance to test your skills, make new friends but also have a real laugh too; just completing the event is a major success for some of the younger teams. It is fantastic to see so many volunteers from the "Crew" at Waddecar putting on what is one of the highest quality events in Scouting in the UK."

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Editor's Notes:

- Scouting is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK with a total of 476,992 members (March 2002 figures)
- Worldwide, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 Countries. Two thirds of the membership lives in developing Countries.
- The Aim of the Association is "To promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- Scouting in West Lancashire has a membership of just under 10,000 members in the following 8 Districts: Chorley, Blackpool, Preston, Ormskirk, South Ribble, Fylde, Wyre and Lonsdale.
- Waddecar is a Scout Activity Centre at the foot of Beacon Fell in the Forest of Bowland, an area of outstanding natural beauty.
- The Service Crew at Waddecar is a team of over 80 volunteers aged 16-70 who give a minimum commitment of 8 weekends per year maintaining the site and providing opportunities for young people in the County.
- Every member of the "Crew" is expected to take part in the "Crew Challenge" each year unless they have a prior important commitmentlike getting married!

For further information, please contact the County Scout Office below:

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