



MCofS News Release

28 July 2011

For immediate release

MCofS Annual Report Points to Successes and Challenges

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) [Annual Report](#) has been published ahead of its [Annual General Meeting](#) in Dunblane on Saturday 3rd September. This year's report points to a wide range of successes for the MCofS, but also flags up challenges for the future.

The 2011 report highlights successes in the following areas:

- Membership growth to over 11,000.
- A record 1,379 people attended MCofS courses and lectures as a result of the Mountain Safety Programme.
- Scottish athletes made up almost 50% of the Great Britain sport climbing youth team.
- Pressure from the MCofS Hill Tracks Campaign resulted in a government consultation.
- The MCofS achieved the Foundation Level of the Equity Standard for Sport.

In his report outgoing President Chris Townsend highlights challenges facing the MCofS including the importance of protecting access rights and addressing the threat to mountain landscapes from wind farm developments.

MCofS Chief Officer David Gibson said: "We achieved success in key areas but like many volunteer-led organisations we face a challenging future; representing our members' interests, promoting self-reliance in the mountains, and developing and supporting Scottish climbing talent continue to be our key priorities."

MCofS Mountain Safety Adviser Heather Morning said: "The MCofS has communicated its mountain safety message to a record number of people in the same year as mountain rescue incidents in Scotland fell to a 30 year low. We can't prove a correlation between the two, but the MCofS is dedicated to making a significant contribution to skills and self-reliance in the mountains. We believe that our work will help to reduce mountaineering incidents."

For further information contact Mike Dales on mike@mcofs.org.uk or go to the MCoFS website at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk>.

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Notes for Editors:

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoFS) acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.

MCoFS is a membership organisation with 11,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions; non-governmental grants; and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain weather information services, mountain leader training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities. MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.