



MCoS News Release

17 September 2009

For immediate release

Climbing Rocks Festival 2009

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoS) in conjunction with the Quickdraw Climbing Club is organising the Climbing Rocks Festival for young climbers at the Edinburgh Indoor Climbing Arena (EICA) at Ratho on Saturday October 10th. Bookings are now being taken for this festival, which is expected to attract young people from all over Scotland.

Almost 1,000 slots are available through the day on activities that include "Try Climbing Sessions", Lectures, Competitions, Skills Workshops and various other family activities. For full details of the programme please visit the MCoS website and visit the "Kids" area under the "Get Active" heading. Details of all activities and how to book a place are also on the Quickdraw Club's Festival website at: www.quickdrawclimbingrocks.com. Places on some of the activities are limited, so please book early.

One of the main attractions will be the Skills Workshops. Natalie Berry from Bearsden, current British Champion who is ranked number 3 in the world in the junior category, will be coaching girls who have just started climbing. Jaime Davidson, Ross Kirkland and Jonathan Field, all British Team members from Scotland will also be offering coaching for beginners.

Coaching at a more advanced level will be available from climbing coaches Suzan Dudink, Andy Earl and Neil McGeachy.

Another World number 3 appearing at the Festival is Jonathan Stocking from Kilwinning, who will be giving a lecture on his "First Alpine Experience". Jonathan is current British Lead Champion, but is also a committed adventure climber.

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Kevin Howett, MCofS Mountaineering Development Officer who will be presenting a lecture on climbing outdoors said: "The Climbing Rocks Festival is the first of its kind in the UK - a festival to celebrate climbing aimed at kids. As a result it not only has some of the best adult climbers offering lecturing and coaching sessions, but some of Scotland's best young climbers themselves helping to coach and inspire other children to get involved. Come on parents; bring your children along and see if they will like climbing – many activities on the day are free and its fun".

Mark Tennant from the Quickdraw Club said: "The Quickdraw Climbing Club was founded on a premise of the advancement of Scottish Youth Climbing and what better way to go about it than being involved in an event like this. It's the perfect vehicle to showcase the sport we love so much. Please come along and support the event, try some climbing and let us show you why "Climbing Rocks!"

Graeme Gardiner, Head of EICA said "The EICA is delighted to host the first Climbing Rocks Festival and we are anticipating an exciting day full of activities for young people interested in climbing. As The National Centre for Indoor Climbing, the EICA is fully committed to developing this fantastic sport and we would encourage people to come along and have the opportunity to experience climbing in the world's largest climbing arena".

Bookings can be made via the Climbing Rocks Website at bookings@quickdrawclimbingrocks.com

For further information contact Kevin Howett on 01738 493 946 / kev@mcofs.org.uk or go to the MCofS website at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk> or alternatively contact Mark Tennant of the Quickdraw Climbing Club at bookings@quickdrawclimbingrocks.com.

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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 10,500 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, 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.