



The Rwenzori Development Foundation Position and guidelines on 3 peaks challenge

Very recently, there have been growing concerns over the large number of people participating in the 3 peaks challenge. Most of the focus has been directed at large charities who organise 'big group' sponsored events involving 200 people or more. Concerns raised by various environmental charities include, damage to fragile ecosystems, noise pollution, excess litter, increased stress on public facilities and footpaths and traffic congestion on small roads.

In response to these problems a **code of conduct** has been established in order to help minimise the problems that such large events can cause. The code of conduct includes the following:

- Avoid the peak summer months (June-August)
- Limit the no. of walkers to no more than 200 per event.
- Show respect for other hill users and local residents
- Clear litter before leaving the area
- Strongly discourage racing between teams on and between mountains
- Do not use large coaches as this blocks narrow roads
- Keep noise to a minimum between 12 midnight and 5am.

The Rwenzori Development Foundation is aware of the damage to the local environment caused by large sponsored challenge events and will be adhering to the code of conduct. It is the responsibility of each group to ensure that all participants pick up all litter, keep noise to a minimum (especially when entering and leaving Wasdale/Scafell Pike) and respect the local environment. In addition, if any member of the team notices any litter on the approach to, or descent from, any of the peaks we kindly ask them to pick it up and deposit it in the bins in your vehicle.

Lastly, in an effort to contribute to the upkeep of the mountains, the Rwenzori Development Foundation has built into the costs of this event a small donation of £5 per person per peak which will be donated to each of the organisations responsible for the mountains. Bill Wallace, Trustee and hon. Secretary of the John Muir Trust, which owns the Ben Nevis said in a recent letter to us: 'Although we own the southern slopes of Ben Nevis above the 2500ft contour we have a long standing principle of freedom of access on the Ben as well as on our other properties. Thus we wish you well in your fund raising efforts. However, please ask your participants to be careful and minimise any disturbance and inconvenience. As regards the donation the Trust is very happy to accept your generous offer.'

Remember: the mountains are precious! Treat them with respect!