

Dear Friends

I am writing to ask you to make a gift to our **Centres Appeal**, helping us to invest in and preserve the vital ministry at Alltnacrieche, Gowanbank and Lendrick Muir.

This year has been a difficult time for so many people, and the impact of lockdown on SU Scotland ministry has been severe – children, young people, staff and volunteers alike. Colleagues at our centres have been saddened to see residential ministry decimated; huge losses of income and empty centres led to nearly all staff being furloughed.

Our teams do a brilliant job encouraging over 7,500 young people every year as they engage in new activities, explore the Bible, grow in leadership and enjoy fantastic outdoor experiences. These facilities need to be maintained and ready for ministry opportunities as Scottish Government guidance permits.

Although we don't anticipate residential events returning until mid-2021, recovery has begun! We have adjusted to each new set of restrictions and our centres are now COVID-secure. SU Holidays Day Camps started in October, school and other groups are booking non-residential visits and our teams are taking outdoor ministry into local schools.

Over the past three decades, supporter giving has transformed our centres into incredible resources. Our teams are a critical part of the experience for young people who visit our centres. Your donations will help to sustain our reduced staff levels and make careful investment to re-orientate our facilities and activities.

Our centres face significant challenges. Staff who left have not been replaced, fixed term contracts have not been renewed, remaining team members are on reduced hours under the new Job Support Scheme and non-essential costs have been cut. Retaining our centres could cost up to £400,000 and, in 2021, the centres' teams will be 40% smaller.

Can I ask you to give generously to this appeal so that we are able to navigate this crisis, and preserve our centres for future ministry with the children and young people of Scotland?

Thank you for your partnership with us,



Paul Bayton
Director of Centres



SUPPORTING CENTRES' TEAMS



@SUAlltnacrieche



@SUGowanbank

Registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC54297).
Registered Office: 70 Milton Street, Glasgow G4 0HR.

WHY DO OUTDOOR CENTRES MATTER?

The outdoor environment, young people, a teachable moment, and a demonstration of God's love.

You could be describing the work of Josiah Spiers on the beach in Llandudno, 150 years ago, from which Scripture Union traces its origins or an activity session at an SU Holidays Day Camp this October.

Outdoor Learning has been part of the Scottish Education system for decades, with the Curriculum for Excellence giving it greater prominence in recent years. SU Scotland has been welcoming pupils on residential for over 30 years. They benefit from learning together in small groups where confidence is built, new skills are learned and many areas of the curriculum, including Religious and Moral education, are explored. Many pupils return to an SU Holiday at Alltnacrieche, Gowanbank or Lendrick Muir.

Our centres are fantastic settings for young people to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus. So many testimonies talk about the life-changing impact of a residential event – where Jesus is first introduced, where commitments to follow him are made and where significant growth in discipleship takes place.

Outdoor centres matter to our overseas partners too! We want to use this appeal to support the Open Bible campsite at Vorzel, by giving 10% of funds raised to help them respond to the impact of the Coronavirus in Ukraine.

[SUSCOTLAND.ORG.UK/GIVE](https://suscotland.org.uk/give)

SU Scotland

CENTRES APPEAL





Will you INVEST to PROTECT our CENTRES?

Across Scotland, the future of Outdoor Centres is in the balance – we know that many will close over the coming months. The risks associated with COVID-19 and residential stays are high, so although there is permission to host school day visits and SU Holidays Day Camps, that income does not cover operational costs.

SU Scotland is involved in a number of sector wide initiatives highlighting these challenges to the Scottish and UK Parliaments, applying for funding support and exploring every avenue to secure income. Since March we have thoroughly examined cashflows, ministry opportunities and staffing levels to adjust to changing guidelines.

But our work with children and young people has not stopped! Our teams are focussing on what we can do to deliver activity days, as well as adapting our centres to meet new regulations.



"The strongest aspect of the residential was the consistency and quality of leadership of the instructors... fair, calm, spoke quietly which, in turn, calmed the children and provided better focus."

Milne's Primary School

SUPPORTING CENTRES' TEAMS (£60,000)

We are asking you to support core staff costs, allowing us to retain the capacity of our teams.

Your support will enable external qualifications to be gained, new activities to be developed in a COVID-secure way and staff to be retrained to deliver them at our centres, schools and in local communities.

It will also allow us to purchase resources which can't be shared (harnesses, bushcraft kits and other equipment).

INVESTING in CENTRES (£60,000)

Your giving will allow us to allocate staff time to complete work on our facilities.

Temporary measures, such as one-way systems, hand sanitiser points and increasing the use of the outdoors for eating, have meant we can work safely with small groups.

With more substantial investment we will be able to increase day visit numbers by purchasing mobile "outdoor classrooms" (well-ventilated, outdoor space for meeting and eating), managing handwashing outdoors, distributing equipment more easily and increasing access to toilet facilities.



"At camps I found out what it is to know Jesus... SU Scotland engage and excite young people about the Word, truly caring and taking the time to help children understand God's love for them."

Senior Pupil, SU Holidays