



Bear Grylls (Edward Michael Grylls)

A lifetime of adventure

Bear Grylls will be the UK's youngest Chief Scout, aged 34. Whether it is crossing the Atlantic Arctic Ocean in an open boat, scaling Mt Everest or flying a powered paraglider to 29,000ft in the Himalayas, Bear knows a thing or two about adventure. But he is not just about breaking records in the great outdoors.

As an ex Special Forces soldier, he is not only known around the world as the host of the hit TV series 'Born Survivor' and 'Man Vs Wild', he is also an inspirational speaker, best selling author of nine books and a fervent supporter of young people getting out there to experience adventure for themselves.

Bear got his taste for the outdoors as a Scout, whilst a young boy. He was taught to climb by his late father on the sea cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and this interest rapidly developed when he left school.

His military service saw him trained in combat survival, parachuting, demolitions, trauma medics and mountain warfare as a trooper with 21 SAS. During one parachute jump he sustained a massive injury breaking his back in three places. After intense military rehabilitation, he made a full recovery and went on to become one of the youngest climbers ever to reach the summit of Everest and has led numerous other expeditions around the world. He has since been awarded an honorary commission in the Royal Navy, as a Lieutenant-commander, in recognition of his adventurous feats and his determination to help charities and young people along the way.

When invited to take on this role with UK's largest co-educational youth movement Bear said 'I feel so honoured to be offered this position, and have always held such admiration for Scouts and all they do around the world. The Scouting Movement is a massive force good, touching many, many young lives. Above all, it gives millions of kids the chance to live and learn about the wild and to experience real adventure. My hope is to help Scouts of all ages, including adults, to reach their potential, to follow their dreams and to enjoy the camaraderie that the Scouts is famous for.

In particular I want to continue the inspirational work that the current Chief Scout Peter Duncan has begun by showing the public how Scouting continues to open young people's eyes to a world of extraordinary promise and possibilities.'

This is not Bear's first volunteer role. He is also an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and is Vice President of the JoLT trust, which helps young people from troubled backgrounds experience the 'journey of a lifetime'.

Bear also balances his demanding life with his young family. Married to Shara, he has three sons all aged under six. 'Together we try and balance work as well as supporting various causes,' he says, 'but ultimately my family is my top priority, and that needs to be carefully protected.'

A practicing Christian, Bear's faith is also very fundamental to him: 'there have been many, many tight spots over the years, and it takes a proud man to say he needs nothing. My Christian faith is a backbone to me, a rock to my family and has helped me through countless difficult and scary times.'

Scouting is a global movement and Bear has travelled extensively to every continent in the world. Known and respected in many countries outside the UK he is truly a global ambassador for a global movement. His languages include Spanish and French, and he has a deep respect for diverse faiths and cultures.

'I can't wait to meet as many of the UK's Scouts as I can,' says Bear. 'Supporting and representing our members is a huge privilege, and I want all Scouts to know I am here for them and willing to listen and help where I can. Despite being over 100 years old, Scouting survives by constantly reinventing itself, while staying firmly rooted in its principles. This is also reflected in its membership - youth led, but supported by experienced volunteers of all ages.'

Bear's notable achievements:

- Served for three years with 21 SAS.
- Youngest Briton to summit Everest.
- Completed the first unassisted crossing of the North Atlantic Ocean in an open rigid inflatable boat.
- Led the first team to circumnavigate Britain on jet skis.
- Set a world record for the highest ever open-air formal dinner party (in a hot air balloon at 25,000 feet).
- Flew a powered paraglider over Everest, raising over 2.5million dollars for children's charities worldwide.
- Awarded the honorary rank of Lieutenant Commander in the UK's Royal Navy for services to charity and human endeavour.

Television:

Born Survivor (Channel 4)

Escape to the Legion (Channel 4)

Man vs Wild/ Ultimate Survival (Discovery Channel)

Books:

Facing Up

The Kid Who Climbed Everest

Facing the Frozen Ocean

Born Survivor: Bear Grylls

Bear Grylls Outdoor Adventures

With love Papa

Mission Survival: Gold of the Gods

Way of the Wolf

Sands of the Scorpion

Philosophy:

'Follow your dreams and look after your family and friends.'

On Scouting:

'It's outdoor adventure backed up by strong values and good friendships.'

On faith:

'It's about knowing that we're loved despite our many failings, and that's Christianity in a nutshell.'