

ArcticQuest 2026

Kent Scouts Arctic Research Expedition 2026

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Kent Scouts have gone South, now ambitions face North

Following on from the huge success of the REQUEST2021 Antarctic research project, plans for a new expedition to the Arctic Circle are now in full swing from the Kent Scout Global Projects Team.

The aim of the expedition is to continue in the footsteps of Scout Marr, who went north in 1925/26 and completed polar research as part of Frank Worsley's British Arctic journey.

13 young people and 7 leaders from Scouting groups across Kent have signed up to take on this challenging adventure.

The objectives set out for the expedition are

- **Voyage** – An adventurous expedition 'Under sail in the Frozen North', where participants will crew the vessel.
- **Projects** – Undertake group & personal projects and present the results.
- **Worsley** – Celebrate the achievements of Frank Worsley.
- **Outreach** – Share the experience with thousands of young people



The Journey North

Departing from the UK in Easter 2026, the team will begin their 14 day expedition by flying to Norway's capital Oslo, where they will meet and make friendships with local Norwegian Scout groups.

The journey will then continue to Tromsø. Once there, the team will board the tall ship that will carry them across the open waters to Bear Island and then further north to Spitsbergen.

Throughout the voyage, the team will be undertaking the challenge of assisting to crew the vessel as well as participate in personal and group research projects.



Meet the Leadership Team



**Ricky Baker,
Maidstone
Cub Leader, LGF Active
Support**

“ This is an amazing opportunity to visit a part of the world that very few people get to go and see. To help young experience this as well makes it more worthwhile.”



**Lydia Vadgama,
Maidstone
Beaver Leader, LGF Active
Support**

“ Going to the Arctic Circle is a once in a life time opportunity that I just couldn't pass up. I'm also very excited to be going with my husband .”



**Helen Smith,
DoE Adviser**

“ I was lucky enough to be on the team for ReQuest2021 to Antarctica with Kent Scouts which only sparked my interest in the Polar regions. I am an avid traveller and love pushing myself out of my comfort zone. ”



**Mike Keam,
Whitstable
Assistant Group Scout Leader**

“ I have always been fascinated by Arctic exploration and I don't mind the cold. I spent the early part of my working life as a ski instructor and the rest of my time at sea. I love being on snow or water and this is the chance of a lifetime to combine both and explore. “



**Josh Carr,
Westgate-On-Sea
Assistant Beaver Leader**

“ I would love to travel the world and learn all about the Arctic. I would love to come home and tell all the young people what I have learnt about the arctic and polar Research.”



**James Burford
Medway
Explorer Leader**

“ I would like to see the northern lights under sail in the Arctic Circle. “



**Gemma Wood,
West Mailing
Squirrels Leader**

“ I was inspired by my husband going on ReQuest2021 to Antarctica following the launch. This inspired me to get back into Scouting and start something new.”

“ I love having adventures, and this would be an amazing opportunity to help crew a tail ship in Arctic waters. This would certainly take me out of my comfort zone “

Our Patron - Louis Rudd MBE

Louis Rudd MBE is a record-breaking polar adventurer, expedition leader, former Royal Marine Commando and SAS soldier, with 34 years of service.

He is the first – and only – person to have traversed Antarctica twice using human power alone, has reached the South Pole four times from different coastal start points and summited Antarctica's highest mountain.

He is a member of the exclusive Explorers Club, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, an Ambassador for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, Director of Expeditions for Shackleton,

Captain Louis Rudd served for over three decades in the military, joining at the age of 16 as a soldier and rising through the ranks to Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), before commissioning as an Officer. As well as serving in Northern Ireland, The Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan, he has completed multiple cold-weather tours in Norway and the Arctic circle. While serving he completed a Masters Degree (MSc) in Security & Risk Management.

Louis' first trip to Antarctica was in 2011/12 on the Scott-Amundsen Centenary Race Expedition. Along with Lt Col Henry Worsley MBE, Polar Medal, he skied 800 miles over 67 days unsupported from the Bay of Whales, up the Axel Heiberg Glacier to the South Pole, following the original route of the Norwegian Roald Amundsen. The expedition raised £150,000 for the Royal British Legion charity.

In 2016/17 he planned and led a team of five Army Reservists on a 67-day, 1,100 mile traverse of Antarctica. The SPEAR17 Expedition started at Hercules Inlet, skied 700 miles unsupported to the South Pole, collected a resupply and then crossed the Titan Dome and descended the Shackleton Glacier before arriving on the Ross Ice Shelf.



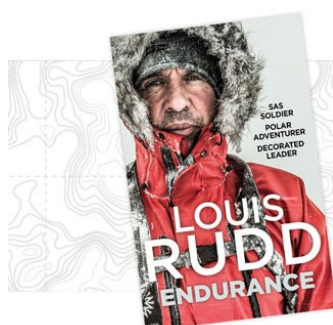
The expedition won multiple awards including the Sun Military Award (Millie) for 'Inspiring Others' and in 2018 Louis was awarded an MBE for his leadership on the journey. The team raised £50,000 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

In May 2018 Louis guided a team of five civilian friends on a 570km west-to-east traverse of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Despite a difficult season and hurricane-strength winds, the team completed the crossing in 27 days.

In 2018/19 he undertook the 'Spirit of Endurance' expedition which was a 56-day, 920 mile solo unsupported (no kites or resupply) crossing of the Antarctic continental land mass, becoming the first Briton and second ever in the world to complete this journey. He is the first person to traverse Antarctica twice on foot. Post-expedition, he completed a 5-month schools programme on behalf of the Army, lecturing on his military career and life of adventure. He was honoured to receive the Scientific Exploration Society's 'Explorer of the Year 2019' award.

In 2021/22 Louis guided disabled army veteran Martin Hewitt on a 400 mile ski to the South Pole and on completion they both climbed Mt Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica. Enabling Martin's attempt to be the first disabled person in history to complete the Explorers Grand Slam.

As well as conducting his own expeditions, Louis now focuses on consulting for others undertaking their own polar journeys, including specialist training and expedition management, as well as offering speaking engagements on leadership and the lessons from his Antarctic and military experiences.



New Book

ENDURANCE

By Louis Rudd

SAS Soldier • Polar Adventurer • Decorated Leader

out
11 June
2020

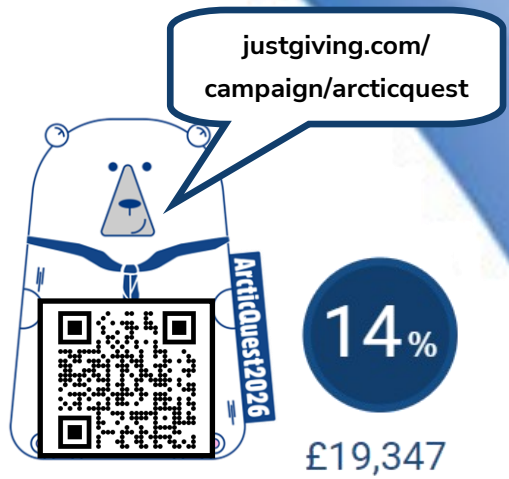


How To Get Involved

Become a valued patron of our cause

Our young explorers have done an amazing job so far having reached 14% of their fundraising target, but we need continuing support if we are to make it all the way to the Arctic,

You can help get us there by donating to our Just Giving page, or by signing up to our newsletter as a Worsley supporter, where you will receive exclusive offers on merchandise and early ticket access to our events.



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|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Iron | Bronze | Silver | Gold | Platinum |
| | | | | |
| From £10 | From £50 | From £100 | From £250 | From £500 |

Visit us at a fundraising event

Our team have had a fantastic summer attending fundraising events in local communities across the county.

Why not come and meet us at our next upcoming events?



Get your very own Worsley

Our Worsley The Polar Bear CROWDFUNDER is now officially live. Pledge for YOUR bear now or just pledge the ArcticQuest2026 team a helping donation.



We only have until the end of November to raise a minimum of £7500 to ensure everyone who wants one gets a Worsley The Polar Bear plush toy! It's an all or nothing Crowdfunder! Help us to be in a position to order the bears on 1st December 2023 and the bears should be out for delivery by Easter 2024.

The first 100 will get a FREE mini leather woggle worth £5 for their Worsley to wear.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/polarbear

Become a corporate partner

The Leadership team are currently on the lookout for local businesses and organisations who are willing to offer support to us in our quest. Whether it's producing merchandise, providing equipment for research projects or opportunities to attend fundraising events, we would love to hear from you.

Contact us: info@arcticquest2026.org.uk

Check out our merchandise



We have a delightful range of merchandise featuring our Worsley the Bear Mascot. Simply visit our website to discover more.

