

## **A message from the Chief Scout - Bear Grylls**

Firstly a warm welcome to you all. I am sorry that I cannot be here in person and even more sorry that I wasn't able to join in the challenge of Chase Walk myself. Maybe next year!

By the time this message is read out many of you here will have endured the challenge of part or all of the 40 miles across Cannock Chase and probably have some quite sore feet by now. Others present will have endured the hours of work involved in either supporting your teams, staffing the event in some way or indeed be those responsible for actually organising the event.

Although there is an element of competition involved I know from the organising team that this is not the focus of the event. The focus is that of personal achievement. The fact that you did it faster than last time, or got further than you did before might have been the goal that you set yourselves and I very much hope you managed to achieve that.

As I have said publicly before, young people often lack the opportunity and **not** the ambition. You guys have all shown your ambition this weekend and I salute you - well done! A very special thank you also to the organising team, their supporters and your individual group leaders for giving you that opportunity.

I understand that not everyone taking part are members of the Scout Association (well not yet!), but with the continued support of people like the D of E teams from Gower College Swansea, those from Southampton University, the Air Training Corps and especially Girl Guiding UK it shows how different organisations like these can work together with Scouting to achieve another personal goal of mine - to encourage, encourage, encourage.

I understand that this year was the 30th anniversary of Chase Walk - I dread to think how many miles have been clocked up in that time! I also know that several of you in this room today have supported this event for all of them 30 years in one way or another. I take my hat off to you guys, as well as to the organising team and I ask that the rest of you present now give them all a round of applause on my behalf.

Well done to you all and it gives me great pleasure to hand over to Mr Geoff Morley, a former Chairman of Chase Walk to present the awards on my behalf. Thank you Geoff.

Bear Grylls  
ENDS

Bear