

## **Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Learning Competition**

### **What is it?**

This is a biennial competition for educational establishments (e.g. schools, nurseries, youth clubs/groups, outdoor centres, etc) to recognise and encourage Curriculum for Excellence work that raises understanding and awareness of the Cairngorms National Park and its special qualities among pupils. Entrants should be bold and creative in their approach and draw from all aspects of the curriculum not just obvious subject areas such as geography and biology.

The competition is run by Cairngorms National Park Authority

There will be three age categories:-

- Early years and lower Primary 3 – 8 years old
- Upper Primary 8 – 12 years old
- Secondary 12 – 16 years old

### **If successful what will you win?**

There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for each age category.

As well as recognition for good work, the successful establishment will be presented with:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £300 grant to develop outdoor learning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £150 grant to develop outdoor learning.
- A framed 'winners' certificate.
- A National Park flag.

We will also promote good entries on GLOW, Education Scotland and Cairngorms National Park websites.

### **Who can enter and what does it cost?**

The competition is free to enter and open to any educational establishment in Scotland.

### **How do you enter?**

Simply complete an entry form (available from [alansmith@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:alansmith@cairngorms.co.uk)) and tell us in no more than 1000 words (and pictures) -

- about your work on the Cairngorms National Park,
- what difference it has made to your understanding of the Cairngorms National Park.
- what you would do with the grant if you won the competition to further develop outdoor learning opportunities at your establishment.

Don't be constrained by the format, we're happy to get a presentation in a format of your choice (DVD, Powerpoint, music etc) so long as it is no longer than 5 mins (about the time it takes to read 1000 words)

**We are really keen that pupils are involved in your submission.**

The work submitted has to have taken place in the 2 years before the deadline date. It can be part of an ongoing project but a substantial part of the activity must have already taken place. Entries can draw on the full spectrum of outdoor learning opportunities available.

To help support your work/application you can find out more about the Cairngorms National Park at [www.cairngormslearningzone.co.uk](http://www.cairngormslearningzone.co.uk) and [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk). We've also added a list of useful web sites and documents at the end of this paper.

**Submissions should be with CNPA no later than 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Email: [alansmith@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:alansmith@cairngorms.co.uk)

Post: Alan Smith. CNPA, 14 the Square, Grantown on Spey. PH26 3HG

**How will your entry be assessed?**

We will be looking for a number of things:-

1. What did you do - activities, projects, visits, training?
2. How has the work raised awareness and understanding of the Cairngorms National Park?
3. How does the work help deliver Curriculum for Excellence in your establishment?
4. How have pupils, teachers and partners been involved in developing this work?
5. What would you do with the grant to further develop outdoor learning?

A panel will look at all the entries and determine, in their opinion, the work that best meets the above criteria. We will be looking for innovative projects that involve a number of subject areas.

The panel will consist of:-

- CNPA Board Member
- CNPA Officer
- Director of Education
- Education Scotland Officer

If we get lots of good entries, and we hope we will, we may ask staff and pupils to deliver a short presentation about their work.

**Useful Links and Information**

[www.cairngormslearningzone.co.uk](http://www.cairngormslearningzone.co.uk)

[www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)

[www.visitcairngorms.com](http://www.visitcairngorms.com)

**What to do with the prize money!**

- Buy outdoor equipment or resources – books, cameras, seeds, trees, wellies etc
- Pay for transport for a visit to the Cairngorms National Park.
- Pay for a session on bushcraft, nature photography or a Countryside Ranger.