



**British
Exploring
Society**

Yukon 2018 Leader Team



Our Leadership Team

Yukon 2018

Exceptional Expedition Leaders have always been critical to the British Exploring Society and are a fundamental part of what makes us a unique charity. We value them very highly. Throughout our history, our leaders have offered their time freely and have shared their professionalism and commitment for the benefit of Explorers in destinations all over the world.

Our leaders come from a variety of professional backgrounds and bring with them a wealth of experience and skills. As we are sure you will discover, they are outstanding individuals and form a remarkable team.

KEY	
	Senior Leadership Team
	Trainee Leader Mentor
	Basecamp Manager
	Adventure
	Media
	Medical
	River
	Science



Bruce Manning
Chief Leader

"What you can do is only restricted by what you believe". Bruce was lucky enough to be brought up believing he could do anything he sets his mind on and at school managed a Young Farmer's club, learned to scuba dive and had his first experience of snow and ice on Ben Macdui.

Skiing, climbing and mountaineering have been a major part of his life and he has taken at least two months each year from his professional life as a subsea engineering and project manager to do something adventurous. He has climbed in most of the major mountain ranges and in 2007 summited Lhotse.

Whilst on an adventure race to the North Pole he was contacted by BE and he became chief mountaineer for the 2006 winter Svalbard expedition and later chief leader for the 2008 Falklands and South Georgia expedition. Since then he has supported various expeditions and led the 2016 expedition to Ladakh.



Jennie Richardson
Deputy Chief Leader/Trainee Leader Mentor

Jennie studied BSc Environmental Science and Geography (Bradford) and MA Countryside Management (Bangor) then worked as a rights of way and access development officer before retraining as a geography teacher in 2009.

As a keen paddler, especially sea kayaking, Jennie is currently progressing through the BCU coaching and leadership awards. When not on the water, Jennie who holds the summer ML award, likes to spend time in the mountains, often accompanied by her faithful spaniel Hestia.

Jennie has led on previous expeditions with BE: Arctic Finmark and Indian Himalayas; and also took part in BE's Arctic Skills Training in Svalbard.



Mark Vincenti
Basecamp Manager

Mark has been a member of the Royal Air Force for many years, and as a Logistics specialist has been on detachments all over the world (from the Falkland Islands to Afghanistan).

Mark has a wealth of experience in planning, organising and participating in both field expeditions and sporting events – he was involved in GB Water Polo for over 10 years managing both the Senior and Junior Squads.

He enjoys mentoring and developing younger and less-experienced members of his Squadron giving them the confidence and personal skills to achieve their full potential. In his spare time, Mark enjoys hill walking and skiing as well as watching rugby and football.



Ben Sullivan
Media Leader

Ben is a professional science and technology journalist, having worked internationally for several magazines and newspapers since graduating in journalism from University College Falmouth in 2011.

Most recently, Ben was the UK Editor at VICE Media's award-winning tech and science website Motherboard, commissioning features and documentaries investigating what's coming next for this world of ours.

He is a passionate climber and mountaineer, and after climbing trips to the Alps and the USA last summer, Ben opted to go freelance.

With experience working across multiple media platforms, including longform reporting, photography, and video production, Ben's goal is to help our explorers document, understand, and ultimately share with the world their experiences on this expedition.



Graham Johnston
Adventure Leader

Graham was an Adventure Leader with BES DNG 2016 in Iceland, where the team enjoyed 3 weeks of exploring and trekking.

He is an enthusiastic Mountaineer, a member of one of the busiest Mountain Rescue teams in Scotland and has climbed all the Munros in Scotland, many of the Lake Districts peaks and some in peaks in Europe.

When not climbing, Graham spends much of his time training Youths for their Duke of Edinburgh awards and or supervising their expeditions. In addition, he is a Trustee of a Youth Charity in Glasgow and often leads young explorers from that youth group across Scotland.

Graham is a strong advocate for expeditions, seeing the benefits that flow to people of all ages, especially from exploring the outdoors in locations that inspire and provide a sense of achievement.



Lewis Lane
Adventure Leader

After a 27-year Fire Service career, Lew uses his leadership experience these days in the outdoors instead. Lew is a Summer Mountain Leader and leads groups in the UK mountains, has instructed basic expedition leadership courses and in 2017 was a volunteer adventure leader in Tanzania with the sustainability charity Raleigh International.

Lew graduated in BSc (Hons) Environmental Studies (OU) and is currently working towards an MSc Sustainability and Adaptation, studying climate change and sustainability. Lew's thesis hopes to evaluate whether expeditions influence sustainability actions of explorers.

Lew volunteers with Lowland Search and Rescue and if there's any spare time he enjoys being in the mountains, both winter and summer, walking, cycling or climbing.



Hannah Mcknight
Adventure Leader

Hannah currently works as a Physics teacher at Friends' School Lisburn, Northern Ireland. She is involved in the schools Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and enjoys supervising and assessing expeditions.

She is also member of North West Mountain Rescue Team where she enjoys volunteering her time to help others and learn new skills. In her spare time, she volunteers with the Scout Association and is an Explorer Scout leader.

Her travel experience includes expeditions in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, French and Italian Alps, Iceland and UK. She has also enjoyed cultural explorations of India, Peru and Japan.



Joe Garrett
Adventure Leader

Joe has been rock climbing and Mountaineering for more years than he'd like to admit including numerous expeditions to the Alps, the Western United States and Africa. He holds the summer Mountain Leader award. When not up a mountain he enjoys skiing, surfing, canoeing and riding his mountain bike. Joe has also recently developed an interest in bushcraft and gourmet campground cookery!

In his day job, Joe has been a Doctor since 2014 and is currently working in Emergency Medicine. He also holds the East African Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and is working towards the completion of his Diploma in Mountain Medicine.



Dave Janes
River Leader

Dave is an experienced paddler and mountaineer and a former member of Great Britain Canoe Slalom Team.

He has just retired from the Fire Service as a Station Commander after 31 years' service. As part of his role in the fire service, he was a National Flood Rescue Tactical Advisor having attended a number of national flooding incidents as part of national resilience response.

He is now working as Freelance outdoor instructor, working with young people within outdoor centres and as a trainer, supervisor and assessor for The Duke of Edinburgh's scheme. Dave is a Mountain Leader, Canoe Leader and Water Rescue Instructor.



Benjamin Watts
River Leader

Ben's first BE expedition will be the Yukon, but is no stranger to expedition life, having raft guided on the rivers of Nepal and climbed first ascents in the Tian Shan mountain range in Kyrgyzstan.

When not working as a paramedic, Ben will be found outside, cycling, surfing, mountain biking or on the rivers of Devon canoeing and kayaking.

Ben is excited to be able to help develop young explorers and enable them to enjoy the opportunities available to them living wild in the Canadian Yukon.



Alice Mees
River Leader

Alice is a keen adventurer whatever the mode of transport, be it on foot, bike or boats, journeying in the wilderness is the goal. Canoeing however is a firm favourite and Alice has undertaken several expeditions as a leader, with friends, and solo.

When not on expedition, Alice works full time as an outdoor educator for the Outward Bound Trust, taking young people on adventurous expeditions in Wales focusing on building confidence, resilience, and interpersonal skills.

She is also studying part time for a Professional Doctorate, researching the judgement and decision making processes of other outdoor professionals. Alice is really looking forward to exploring a new place and sharing the experience with young explorers.



Kenneth Noble
River Leader

Kenny's love of the outdoors started as a young boy in the Sea Cadet Core with sailing and paddle sports and has continued to grow ever since. He was lucky enough to live and work in Colorado for 7 years at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, which allowed him to follow his passion for wilderness hiking and camping and successfully avoided being eaten by bears!!

He now works as an outdoor instructor on the west coast of Scotland, taking groups of young people on various outdoor activities, as well as running John Muir Awards and leading and assessing D of E expeditions.

He is also teaching bush craft skills to scout leaders and school teachers to enable them to take their young people outdoors.



Katie Clark
Assistant River Leader

Kate is currently studying a BA (Hons) in Outdoor Leadership at the University of Central Lancashire.

Kate has worked for centers within the U.K delivering Paddle sports sessions and aspires to work within the youth expedition sector as a graduate.

Kate has volunteered on community projects in both Thailand and Ghana. Kate was an explorer on an expedition to the Canadian Yukon last summer 2017 with British Exploring.



Fernando Mateos Gonzalez
Chief Scientist

Fernando is a Spanish biologist with a PhD in Behavioural Ecology and a MSc in Animal Biodiversity. His research on animal behaviour has led him to work in Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Americas, in amazing places such as the rainforests of Trinidad & Tobago, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Baltic Sea, or Lake Tanganyika.

When not working, he is also an outdoor enthusiast and keen adventurer, who loves rock climbing, mountaineering, hiking in search of fauna, and mountain biking through icy Nordic forests or scorching deserts. In 2013, he cycled 2000 km of dirt roads from the capital of Namibia to the southernmost tip of the African continent, the Cape of Good Hope. He is looking forward to sharing adventures and science with his team of explorers in the Amazon.



Sarah Coates
Science Leader

Sarah has a Geography BSc (Hons) from Manchester Metropolitan University, graduating in 2000.

She works for the Field Studies Council in the Lake District, where she teaches geography and biology field work to all ages as well as adventurous activities.

Sarah holds the Summer Mountain Leader Award and has worked in field studies and outdoor adventure for over 10 years. She has worked on turtle conservation projects in Costa Rica and Greece.

When not working in the outdoors, Sarah spends her time climbing, walking and travelling.



Roland Arnison
Science Leader

Roland has a degree in Environmental Science and works as an environmental consultant alongside his wide-ranging experience in expeditions, explorations and adventures.

He took part in an expedition to climb Shambu Qa Killa, a previously unclimbed mountain in the remote Indian Himalayas and has also extensively climbed on mountains and rock faces in the UK and Europe. Roland has taken part in many sea-kayaking and river canoeing expeditions and enjoys exploring and wildlife watching in remote and wild places. He also has experience as a wildlife and adventure film-maker in the UK and in Africa.

Roland is a volunteer member of his local Mountain Rescue team and is also currently working towards his Mountain Leader qualification.



Naomi Holmes
Science Leader

Naomi is a Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography at Sheffield Hallam University. She is a physical geographer who has carried out research in a range of subjects, mostly mud related. In the last few years Naomi has managed to combine her research interests and an interest in outdoor learning by coordinating and leading the scientific programme of British Exploring expeditions to Norway, India and Canada.

Naomi is a STEM Ambassador and has been involved in a number of events aimed at getting school children and young people interested in science, particularly scientific fieldwork. Naomi believes that British Exploring expeditions offer an excellent opportunity for young people to participate in scientific fieldwork.



Catherine Anne Pathak
Expedition Medic

Kate has been a GP for over ten years and has recently studied Wilderness and Expedition Medicine as a module of the Diploma in Remote and Offshore Medicine. She has experience of expedition leadership from the Amazon rainforest to the snow and ice of Greenland.

Kate has a passion for youth development. She is looking forward to enabling young people to develop resilience and to learn new skills in a challenging environment which will provide them with a tool kit for life.



Melanie Shaw
Expedition Medic

Melanie is a GP Registrar in sunny Devon. She has been a doctor on a few expeditions in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, also as a medic on an ultra-marathon in Namibia. This is Mel's first expedition with BE.

Mel likes nothing more than spending time outside, sleeping in tents or bivvies, sat by a campfire or having a morning swim in bracing waters.