

# The Matthew Bacon Bursary

## – Call for Applications 2024

31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

### Background - Matthew Bacon Bursary

1. Major Matthew Bacon was a former cadet in Surrey ACF who went on to be a career soldier in the Intelligence Corps. In September 2005 he was tragically killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was a keen participant in many types of adventurous training, as this formed an important part of his life.
2. His parents set up a bursary in their son's name as a means of celebrating his life. The Matthew Bacon Bursary enables young people to take part in the Outward Bound Trust (OBT) 14-day 'Summit' Adventure, which would otherwise be beyond their financial means. They chose the Outward Bound activity because they knew how much adventurous training developed Matthew during the time he was a cadet.

### Aim of the Bursary

3. The aim of the Matthew Bacon Bursary is to enable army cadets to complete a 14-day 'Summit' Adventure in order to build their confidence and develop their ability to take advantage of opportunities that life offers to them.

### General Information for ACF Counties

4. ACF Counties are asked to identify suitable candidates, who are cadets:
  - a. With low self-confidence; or,
  - b. Who have not achieved their potential in the ACF; or,
  - c. Who tend to hold back from engaging in cadet activities or other opportunities.
  - d. Who will be aged between 15 years and 17 years of age by the start date of the course.

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5. There are sufficient funds available from the bursary to fund up to three places this year. This is not a hard ceiling, because if more worthy applications are received the Army Cadet Charitable Trust (ACCT UK) will work with the Outward Bound Trust to fund additional places.
6. The ACF may benefit in the long term by the training given on the 14-day 'Summit' Adventure, particularly if bursary recipients return as Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, possibly having gained AT experience in preparation for undergoing formal qualifications.

## **Funding**

7. The terms of the bursary require a contribution from other sources as well as funding from the Matthew Bacon Bursary itself. The funding is apportioned as follows:
  - a. **Bursary – 85%**
  - b. **Personal contribution from the cadet – 15%**
8. The full cost of the 14-day 'Summit' Adventure to the bursary is £1,535; the **personal contribution of bursary recipients will be £200.**
9. The concept of a personal contribution from the individual is important because it ensures that the cadet is a stakeholder in the event. Ideally the **contribution will be raised through the cadet's own fund-raising efforts, with support and resources available from the ACCT UK.**

## **Raising the Personal Contribution**

10. Raising the personal contributions is clearly a challenge, particularly considering the target audience of cadets who would not be able to afford this opportunity and who may not have the confidence to raise money. **Detachment Commanders should work with the cadet to plan how they will raise the funds.**
11. Fundraising support and materials can be provided by ACCT UK and the Fundraising Team.
12. Some of the funds must be raised by the cadet and their detachment. County welfare funds may be used in part, but only once an effort has been made by the cadet to contribute to the activity themselves.
13. This is an excellent opportunity for community activities organised and run by their detachment for Community Engagement and Duke of Edinburgh's Award themes.

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14. Cadets will be required to submit a paragraph on the fundraising activity they have undertaken, accompanied by a photograph.

## **Outward Bound Trust – ‘Summit’ Adventure**

15. The Outward Bound Trust 14-day ‘Summit’ Adventure course **dates and locations available to candidates can be found at Annex A**. To avoid disappointment, it is encouraged to select more than one date or location preference.
16. The Outward Bound ‘Summit’ Adventure is a 14-day course. It is a highly adventurous course featuring climbing, canoeing, gorge walking, plus two separate expeditions, the second one being self-led. The course is designed with all experience levels in mind and is suitable for cadets of all levels.
17. There is a high level of action planning and goal setting, with a number of 1:1 interactions with the instructors. All bursary recipients will leave with a personal action plan and development feedback from instructors that will be of use in future career planning and further personal development.

## **Selection Criteria**

18. To ensure that the spirit of the bursary is fulfilled, candidate cadets must:
  - a. **Have low self-confidence; or,**
  - b. **Have not achieved their potential in the ACF; or,**
  - c. **Who tend to hold back from engaging in cadet activities or other opportunities; and,**
  - d. **Between 15 years and 17 years of age by the start date of the course; and,**
  - e. **Have a strong recommendation from their Commandant.**
19. The 14-day ‘Summit’ Adventure is a physically demanding course, because of this the Outward Bound Trust have created the following documents to aid in preparing potential candidates for their Summer Adventures; at Annex B – Summer Adventure Fitness Guide and at Annex C – ‘Summit’ Adventure Itinerary.

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## Application Process

20. **All candidates should complete the application form found at Annex D** and, once the Commandant has written their detailed endorsement, it should be sent to [grants@acctuk.org](mailto:grants@acctuk.org). All parts of the application form must be completed in full.
21. It is imperative that the parent/guardian of each candidate are informed of the entire process from the outset, to encourage this ACCT UK have included their consent within the application form. A parent/guardian information letter can be found at Annex E.
22. Candidates should **specify two courses** which they are able to attend in their priority order. They will be allocated their first choice wherever possible.
23. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**.

## Application Citations

24. In order to support each individual application, we require two citations, **one from the candidate's Detachment Commander and one from the Commandant**. Both citations are extremely important to the application and should offer supporting information not provided by the candidate. In most cases the citations provided often determine the overall success of the application.

## Selection Process

25. A short list of candidates will be drawn up. The candidate's personal statement and citations will be important factors. The shortlist of candidates will be discussed in detail at a Selection Panel Meeting.
26. Candidates will be informed as soon as possible before the end of February as to whether they have been awarded a bursary.
27. Those awarded a bursary, and therefore a course place, will be required to pay their personal contribution one month prior to the start of their allocated course.

## Travel, Clothing and Equipment

28. **The bursary recipient's unit is responsible for arranging travel and will be able to charge this against their UIN**. Collection from railheads and airports can be arranged by the Outward Bound Trust for an additional cost supported by the Bursary. ACCT UK will confirm Travel Plans with each successful bursary recipient's ACF County Headquarters.

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29. **Specialist clothing and equipment will be supplied by Outward Bound Trust.** It would be prudent for cadets to be in possession of good quality hiking socks, walking boots and some items of warm clothing. Further information will be released by the Outward Bound Trust via email.

### **Important Warning**

30. ACF Counties are responsible for briefing cadets and their parent/guardian so that they understand exactly what they are committing themselves to when they accept a bursary.
31. Bursary recipients should be absolutely certain that they are able to attend the course that they have been allocated. If they cannot attend due to unforeseen reasons, it may be possible at the discretion of the Outward Bound Trust to transfer from one course to another. If a bursary recipient wishes to amend the terms of their bursary, then ACCT UK must be informed immediately.
32. Failure to inform ACCT UK of a cancellation may result in the bursary being financially penalised and will influence our ability to award bursaries to other cadets in the future.

### **Summary**

33. The Matthew Bacon Bursary represents a superb opportunity for cadets. Those who receive this prestigious award will benefit from a very worthwhile and life changing experience using adventurous training as the developmental medium.
34. There will only be a few places available, so those chosen must be the most deserving. By taking part the successful cadets will be celebrating the life of a fine soldier who started his career in our movement.
35. Funds are needed to support the Matthew Bacon Bursary on an ongoing basis. If any units wish to fundraise on behalf of the bursary fund, then please contact [fundraising@acctuk.org](mailto:fundraising@acctuk.org); we can offer fundraising advice and marketing material for your event.
36. If you have any further questions, please contact the ACCT UK Projects and Grants Officer on the details provided below.

*Lara Henwood*

**Projects and Grants Officer**  
[grants@acctuk.org](mailto:grants@acctuk.org)

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**Army  
Cadet  
Charitable  
Trust UK**

## **Annexes:**

- A. Summit Adventure Course Dates & Locations
- B. OBT Summer Adventure Fitness Guide
- C. OBT Summit Adventure Itinerary
- D. Application Form
- E. Parent Information Letter

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