



Annual Meeting UK & Belize Association

23 October 2026

**Wick High School 2013
Belize Expedition:
*How It Shaped Us***



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How it began

In March 2012, AdventuraScotland proposed a month-long expedition to Belize in June 2013.

A group of 10 senior students in the Scottish Highlands came together to organise, plan and raise funds for this life-changing trip...



Fundraising & Preparation

Fundraising

- Grant applications
- Writing to local companies
- Coordinated Silent Auction with MSP Gail Ross with donations from local companies

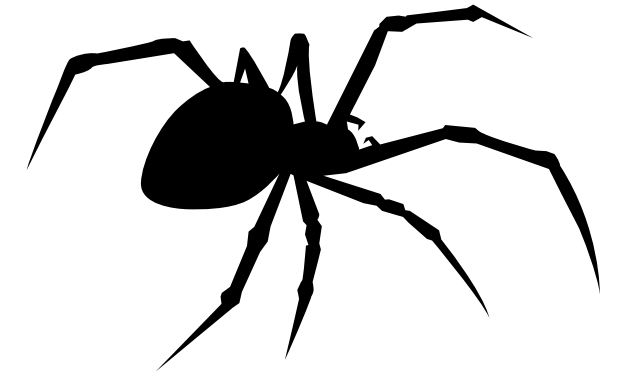


Preparation

- Conservation training at Edinburgh Botanical Gardens
- Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition hike



Timeline of trip

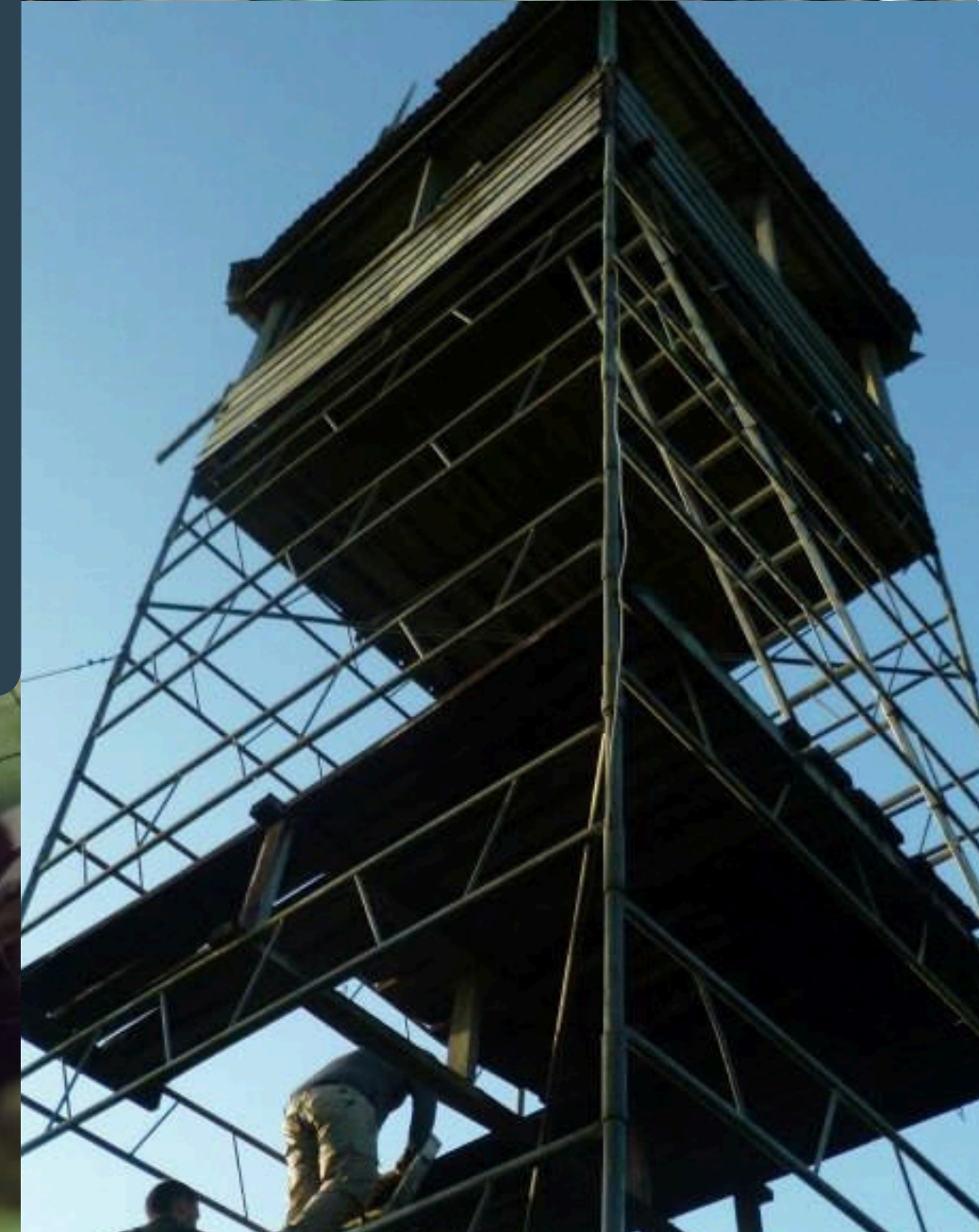


Phase 1 - Conservation

📍 Chiquibul National Park

- **Tree sampling and counting** to support forest monitoring and research.
- **Effect of illegal Xati harvesting** on the rainforest.
- **Wildlife monitoring**, involving the capture, assessment and safe release of animals.
- Learning about **poaching and wildlife trafficking**, particularly along the Guatemalan border.
- Exploring the **impact on local ecosystems and the conservation measures** being implemented.



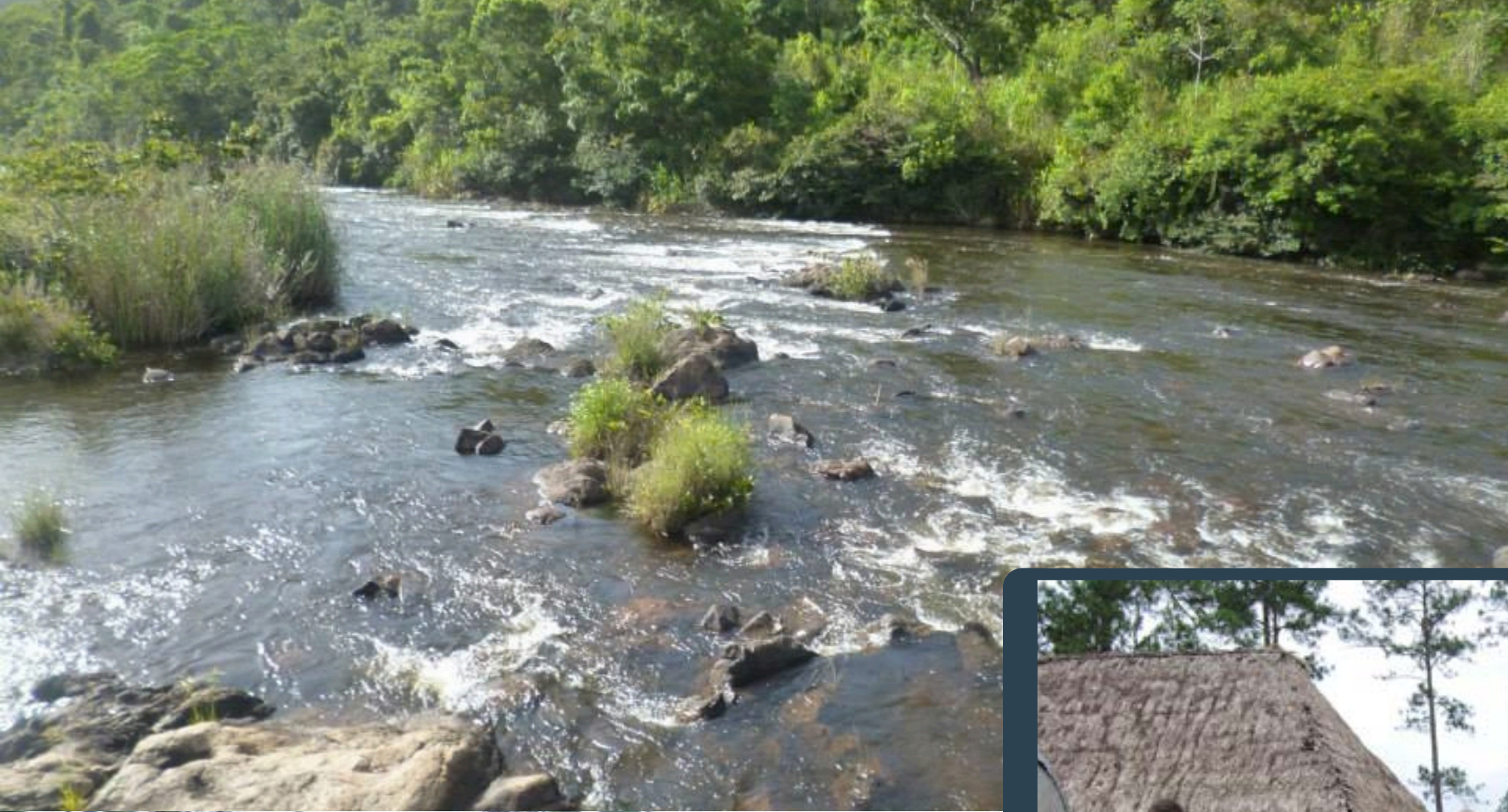


Phase 2 - DoE Expedition

📍 Chiquibul National Park → San Antonio

- Four day trek out of the jungle, covering 50 miles in total, camping and eating on trail.
- Arguably the most challenging part of the trip physically and mentally.
- For a lot of the group, it pushed us out our comfort zones and built resilience.
- For others, it naturally pushed them into a leadership role.
- It reinforced the value of a strong team mentality, looking out for one another and ensuring that every member of the group was supported throughout the journey.





Phase 3 - Volunteering

📍 Good Shepherd Clinic



Phase 3 - Volunteering

📍 Succotz Roman Catholic School



Phase 3 - Volunteering

 Octavia Waight Old People's Home



Phase 3 - Volunteering

📍 San Ignacio Hotel Iguana Sanctuary



Phase 4 - Review

📍 Placencia

We spent our final week carrying out reflection workshops on the beach, facilitated by Ali & Irene, AdventuraScotland.

These included:

- acting out our favourite moments in Belize
- writing letters to our selves
- discussing what we had learned from our time in Belize
- working on our teambuilding
- drawing a graph which represented our input during fundraising.









