

MAIN SHOT: ON REAL EXPEDITIONS THE UNEXPECTED IS ALWAYS HAPPENING: A MAKESHIFT CAMP
INSET: REAL DECISION MAKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ABSORBED IN A PHYSICALLY CHALLENGING JOURNEY
BOTH IMAGES: TASERMUITEJORDEN, W GREENLAND PHOTOS: JOHANNES FELTER

LEARNING ON YOUTH EXPEDITIONS



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This article was being brought to press as news arrived of the death of Horatio Chapple whilst on a BSES Expedition on Svalbard. This sad event will inevitably raise questions about youth development expeditions which are not addressed in the article. The authors would like to extend their deep sympathy to all those who have been affected by these events.

Many AMI members will have been presented with the opportunity to lead an overseas youth development expedition, organised by a large and growing number of charities and commercial organisations, many of which are familiar names. The destinations and objectives of these expeditions are ever more impressive – remote trips in the Himalaya, long arctic journeys, African and South American summits. Whatever the destination, their stated goal is not normally the summit but,

more typically, the personal development of the young participants. In the days, weeks and months prior to departure, leaders will – understandably – be preoccupied with the practicalities of running a safe expedition, and primarily concerned with objective risks. However, in order for these expeditions to really meet their aims, leaders ought also to reflect on a deeper and more complex question: 'What can the participants learn from this expedition, and how can I help them to learn?'

LEFT: LEADERS NEED TO TAKE THE TIME TO REFLECT ON PARTICIPANTS' AS WELL AS THEIR OWN LEARNING.
TASERMUITEJORDEN, W GREENLAND PHOTO: JOHANNES FELTER

