

**Journalist brief for The British Schools Exploring Society (BSES Expeditions)**

**10 KEY FACTS**

1. The British Schools Exploring Society (BSES Expeditions) is a non-profit UK-based youth development charity.
2. Founded in 1932 by the late Surgeon Commander G Murray Levick, a member of Scott's Antarctic Expedition of 1910-13, the BSES is one of the longest running organisations of its type.
3. During its first 75 years, BSES Expeditions has organised over 120 expeditions and visited all seven continents.
4. Based at The Royal Geographical Society in London, BSES Expeditions provides opportunities for young people of all backgrounds and abilities\* between the ages of 16 and 23 to take part in adventure projects that always involve science research in wilderness areas.
5. Honoured by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) at their annual awards ceremony, BSES Expeditions received The 2007 Geographical Award for 'engaging young people with scientific fieldwork through expeditions' for the past 75 years.
6. The BSES 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal was launched with the aim providing the funding to encourage and enable more young people from all sectors of society to join these worthwhile expeditions.
7. BSES Expeditions uses the underlying principle of "adventure with purpose" to develop the next generation of leaders and scientists.
8. BSES aims to widen its constituency of young explorers, in particular by building upon a pilot project currently being run to draw in those from marginalised sectors of society and offering mentoring and bursary schemes to all.
9. BSES ambassadors regularly visit schools and youth organisations to speak about the opportunities on offer to young people.
10. Over the past 75 years, BSES has:
  - Discovered one new site of bushman artwork and artefacts in Africa
  - Trekged 57.6 times around the world (that's 2,303,840 km!)
  - Measured 133 glacier snouts in the Arctic
  - Recorded 13,860 blood pressures in high altitude physiology studies
  - Protected 30,000 turtle eggs

[www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)

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\* Participation is subject to a satisfactory medical check