



Youth Scotland Rural Activate Fund

Supporting rural youth groups to offer safe, fun, inclusive sport and physical activities opportunities from late Summer 2026 until March 2027

Guidance for applicant youth groups



What is the Youth Scotland Rural Activate Fund?

The Youth Scotland Rural Activate Fund is a small grant fund supported by **sportscotland** 2026 Summer of Sport. This fund was created to allow young people in Youth Scotland's rural member groups to have increased access to safe, fun, inclusive, sport and physical activity opportunities and to be supported on to pathways beyond their youth group.

Funds can be used for activities which create safe, fun and inclusive opportunities for young people to participate in sport and physical activities within their youth groups and to build links with local sports clubs, community sports hubs and other sport and physical activity providers. Youth Scotland will work with successful groups to map local provision, make connections with their local Community Sports Hub Officer and support young people to access progression pathways. Activities can start in late Summer 2026 and continue through to end March 2027.

Examples might include:

- Taster sessions or holiday programmes of inclusive sport and physical activities tailored to local needs and interests
- Regular weekly activities

We have a limited amount of funds (£40,000) and will be allocating approx. 20 grants of max £2,000. Priority will be given to rural member groups who are supporting a broad range of young people including young people impacted by poverty/young carers/ care experienced young people/young people with additional support needs.

The maximum amount per award is £2,000.

Who can apply?

Youth Scotland member youth groups which:

- Are based in rural areas of Scotland;
- Can demonstrate that they support a range of young people including young people impacted by poverty/young carers/ care experienced young people/ young people with additional support needs;
- Work with young people aged between 5 and 25 years old;
- Want to increase opportunities for their young people to engage in quality, intentional sport and physical activity;
- Are willing to work with Youth Scotland to map local sport and physical provision, make connections with their local Community Sport Hub Officer and support; young people to progress on to pathways beyond the youth group;
- Are applying for up to £2,000. No match funding is required;

When is the application deadline?

- Monday 3 August 2026.

What happens after you apply?

Once we have received your application, we will review it to make sure all the information we need is included. Applications will be considered by a Grants Panel and we aim to let applicants know whether you have been successful by 10 August 2026.

Funds need to be spent and your activities completed by 31 March 27. Your End of Project Report will need to be completed following the end of your project.

What will we fund?	What won't we fund?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes of activities Taster events. Equipment and kit to be used within programmes of activities. Travel costs to remove barriers to participation in programmes of activities. Additional sessional or specialist staff, beyond core staffing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth groups which are not currently members of Youth Scotland. Membership needs to be in place at time of application. One-off trips unless these are part of a relevant ongoing programme of sport and physical activity opportunities within the youth group. Core staffing costs. Uniformed youth groups. Building upgrades. Activities which take place outside of Scotland. Projects and activities which incorporate the promotion of political or religious beliefs.

Completing the Application

The questions asked in the application form will help the Grants Panel gain a picture of your youth group, the proposed activities and whether the activity and target group match the criteria for this fund. Please complete all questions carefully.

If you have any questions, would like to discuss your idea before applying or have challenges completing the application, then please get in touch. We want to help.

You can contact us either by calling 0131 554 2561 or emailing office@youthscotland.org.uk