

# TGO Challenge 2020 - Entry Notes



## Rise to the Challenge!

Whether you're a newcomer or a Challenge veteran, these notes explain all you need to know about entering The Great Outdoors Challenge 2020. Please study them carefully before completing the form as changes are made every year.

## Entering the Challenge

- The 41st Great Outdoors Challenge will be held between 8th and 22nd May 2020. Challengers start between 8th -11th May and must complete their crossing and sign in at Challenge Control, Montrose in person by 5pm on 22nd May.
- Entry is limited to 400, plus a small number of associates, sponsors and partners.
- The Challenge is a self-supported backpacking walk across Scotland, west coast to east. Challengers are responsible for planning their own routes, which are checked by experienced vetters who may suggest or require revisions. Full details, along with advice on planning your route, are sent to all successful applicants.
- There are 14 signing-out points along the west coast of Scotland, strung between Torridon and Portavadie. Challengers can finish anywhere between Fraserburgh and Arbroath on the east coast.
- The minimum age for entering is 18. There is no maximum age though we strongly recommend that older Challengers have a check-up before entering, ensuring that their medical professional is aware of the nature of the event. You should obtain specific medical advice if you suffer from any long term condition(s) or are unsure about your physical ability to take part. It is a requirement to complete a confidential medical statement and to inform the coordinators of any change in your health prior to the event.
- The Challenge can be completed solo or in groups of up to four people. If intending to walk with a partner or group, each member must complete their own online entry form and health declaration giving the name(s) of other group members. If you do not have access to the internet you should contact the coordinators who will send paper forms.
- First-time entrants must complete the experience section of the application form providing as much detail as possible. The coordinators may ask for details of recent walking experience from anyone who has not participated within the last 5 years.
- Dogs are not allowed on the Challenge.
- The coordinators reserve the right to decline an application – usually on the grounds of insufficient experience or previous unacceptable behaviour.
- Correspondence and Event Details will be sent by email. Anyone not able to receive emails should contact the coordinators who will arrange for information to be posted.
- The Challenge is a non-competitive walking event. Routes involving running or those that the vetters or coordinators feel take undue risks will be rejected. You will be expected to walk every step from the west to east coast.
- All members of your team should be competent backpackers capable of continuing independently if other team members have to retire.
- Participants must detail their route on the supplied route sheet by the deadlines described in the Event Details and make appropriate revisions if requested by their vetter or the coordinators.
- All Challengers participate at their own risk and in accordance with the spirit of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which states: "There is a longstanding legal principle called 'volenti non fit injuria' which means that a person taking access will generally be held to have accepted any obvious risks or risks which are inherent in the activities they are undertaking." By completing the application form you agree to abide by the rules, conditions and spirit of the Challenge, as summarised here, and accept the inherent risk of mountain walking. We might offer you advice on your route, but you should rely solely on your own wits and judgement of the terrain. The Great Outdoors Magazine, Kelsey Publishing, the Event's coordinators and sponsors accept no liability for any damage, loss or injury, illness, mishap or death which might arise from your participation in the Event, however caused, other than that caused as a result of negligence by Kelsey Publishing, The Great Outdoors Magazine or those who run the Event on their behalf. You are strongly advised to check your own personal accident insurance.

- Entries will be taken from 13/9/19 to 14/10/19. If the event is oversubscribed a draw will take place.
  - Receipt of entries will be acknowledged. Please contact the coordinators if your entry has not been acknowledged (email or phone) within 4 days.
  - Payment of £75 per person will be requested once your place is confirmed. You then have 14 days to pay. Those without internet access may post a cheque, payable to Kelsey Publishing Ltd, along with their entry form to the coordinators.
- The cheque will be returned if you do not gain a place
- The entry fee is non-refundable. No substitutions are allowed. Anyone who withdraws from the event should inform the coordinators as soon as possible.
  - Following TGOC20 you will be required to complete a Health and Safety feedback form. Information gained will be fed into our annual risk assessment and is important to ensure the continuation of the Event in future years.

## Notes

**The Draw:** If a draw for places is necessary, it will take place shortly after the closing date and applicants will be informed whether they have been successful by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The following are exempt from the draw:

- Participants on their 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> crossings and their walking partners (WPs)
- Those who took part in the first Challenge and WPs
- Vettors and their WPs
- Those who were unsuccessful in the draw and did not gain a place on their last application.

The following will be excluded from the draw and go onto the reserve list:

- Participants who completed their 10<sup>th</sup> crossing in 2019
- Those who completed their 10<sup>th</sup> crossing in 2018 AND participated in 2019. (Due to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary those who completed their 10<sup>th</sup> in 2018 were included in the 2019 main draw)
- Applicants whose entry form arrives after 14th October.
- 

**Reserve List:** There will not be a formal Standby List in 2020. Instead an additional 50 places will be offered to allow for those who withdraw before May. We anticipate around 350 people setting off from the west coast.

Should any participant fail to pay within 2 weeks of being offered a place on TGOC20, their place they will be offered to someone unsuccessful in the draw. Once payment has been received for 400 places no further places will be offered.

**Backpacking:** The Challenge is intended as a true test – a sustained, self-sufficient backpacking event through wild country. Back up support contravenes the spirit of the event. The choice of accommodation is yours but self-supported wild camping is part of the essence of the Challenge so you should carry a tent or suitable shelter.

**Experience:** The Challenge demands competence in navigation, camp and hill craft as well as common sense. You also need to be weather aware as Scottish weather is notoriously changeable and severe weather is common. It should not be your first experience of backpacking. The event's camaraderie is renowned and fellow Challengers will often offer help if needed but you must not rely on this.

**It's not a Race!** The event is non-competitive with no kudos for fast or particularly arduous crossings. Routes involving running will be rejected. Eight days is the minimum that should be allowed for a straightforward crossing, but most people take 12-14 days giving time to explore some of Scotland's wild places along the way.

**Medical Declaration:** You will be required to complete a medical declaration and provide details of an emergency contact prior to the event.

**Data Protection:** By entering you agree to the coordinators holding your data securely during the Event. After the Event medical data will be immediately deleted – other data may be kept for up to 4 years. Contact details may intermittently be used to inform you of Challenge News. Your data can be deleted at any point by contacting the coordinators but if this is done before you complete TGOC20 you will be deemed to have withdrawn.

Participants' names, ages and hometown will be published in a list that will be sent to all Challengers by email (or post) in early November. An updated list will be issued in April. These lists will NOT appear on the website. Anyone who does not want their names published should inform the coordinators when they apply.