CLIMB SCOTLAND

PART OF MOUNTAINEERING SCOTLAND

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD PROGRAMME 2027

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DEVELOPMENT SQUAD PROGRAMME 2027 - OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

The Development Squad is the initial step onto the squad pathway. It is for climbers who are engaging with their own progression in climbing and want to explore what their future in the sport could look like. Throughout the year, squad members will be offered a series of coaching academies and experiences aimed at complementing their climbing outside of the programme.

FOCUS

The programme will focus on facilitating a welcoming community for development, offering a breadth of experiences, and showcasing climbing as a culture, profession and sport.
Sessions will be structured around 4 key themes and we encourage squad members to come with their own individual work-ons to make the best of the opportunities.

THEMES

EXPLORE
Direction & reflection on their development

GROW
Their technical and personal skills

APPLY
These developments to appropriately challenging contexts

CONNECT
With the climbing community and wider opportunities in the sport

EXPECTATIONS

Climbers will be encouraged to take ownership of their learning in a collaborative, community driven environment. More often than not the sessions will offer up useful questions, rather than direct answers.
With this in mind, the more a climber brings to the programme, the more they are likely to take from it.

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

SESSION	DATE	THEME	WHAT IS PLANNED	FORMAT / VENUE
Start of the Year Meet - Setting Directions Together	23/01/2027 - All Categories	**EXPLORE**	An opportunity to connect as a squad, reflect on your climbing, and think about your focuses for the year ahead.	Boulder | Area: Dundee
Boulder Development & Problem Solving	27/02/2027 - U15/U17/U19 28/02/2027 - U11/U13	**GROW**	A bouldering-focused session exploring movement, problem solving, and technical development through appropriate challenge.	Boulder | Area: Edinburgh
Boulders - Applying Skills in Competition Contexts	20/03/2027 - U17/U19 21/03/2027 - U13/U15	**APPLY**	A competition relevant bouldering session focused on applying skills under pressure in appropriate and supportive contexts.	Boulder | Venue: Edinburgh
Torridon weekend	03/04/2027 & 04/04/2027 - All Categories	**CONNECT**	A shared outdoor climbing experience focused on exploration, and connecting with each other and climbing beyond the wall.	Boulder| Venue: Torridon
Ropes Development & Decision Making	11/04/2027 - All Categories	**GROW**	A rope-focused session exploring movement, decision making, and technical development through appropriate challenge.	Ropes | Venue: Edinburgh
Ropes - Applying Skills in Competition Contexts	08/05/2027 - U17/U19 09/05/2027 - U13/U15	**APPLY**	A competition relevant rope session focused on applying skills under pressure in appropriate and supportive contexts.	Ropes | Venue: Edinburgh
Summer Meet - Reviewing Progress Together	24/07/2027 - U11/U13 25/07/2027 - U15/U17/U19	**CONNECT**	A chance to pause, reflect on progress so far, and think about the rest of the year.	Mix| Venue: Inverness
End of Year Meet - Reflecting on the Year Together	07/11/2027 - All Categories	**EXPLORE**	A relaxed end-of-year session to reflect on experiences, recognise growth, and finish the programme positively.	Boulder| Venue: Glasgow

Squad Expectations

In developing and running the squad programme you can expect the following from us at ClimbScotland:

- **We will work to build a strong squad community so all members feel welcome and part of something meaningful.**
- **We will provide a programme that complements any coaching climbers already receive; the squad programme is not intended to replace regular home coaching.**
- **We will ensure coaching academies are appropriately organised and subsidised to remain as accessible as possible.**
- **We will work with Scottish climbing walls to negotiate access support where possible, helping climbers train independently.**
- **We welcome feedback and will continue to build on what has gone before.**

A significant amount of effort goes into delivering this programme, involving ClimbScotland staff, freelance coaches, setters, and volunteers. We hope squad members feel proud to be part of the programme.

In return, we ask that squad members recognise their role as ambassadors for climbing. When wearing squad kit, accessing wall support, or attending academy days, climbers are expected to uphold ClimbScotland's code of conduct, which will be shared directly upon acceptance into the squad.

Climbing Wall Support

The Climbing Wall Support Programme is one of the key benefits of Squad membership. Each year we spend time developing connections and partnerships with Scottish Climbing Walls. As part of this partnership we ask if each wall will offer support to Development/National/GB squad members in the form of discounted individual entry prices to their climbing walls.

The full list of climbing walls and support viewed here

The discounted entry to climbing walls is a privilege and in return we ask that climbers (and attending parents/guardians) accessing this support act as ambassadors of the sport of climbing and in accordance with our code of conduct. We also ask that you help promote your local climbing wall, perhaps by introducing friends, volunteering at the wall or sharing your time spent at the climbing wall on social media.

Remember you must wear your squad kit to access the above support. Also, the Wall Support offered is specific to each venue and may vary. Please ensure you check directly with the venue in relation to their terms and conditions when planning your visit.

Selection & Transitions

Selection to the squad occurs on a yearly basis, and will follow the criteria as has been posted here.

Fitting in with our ethos outlined above, we feel it is important to share our thoughts and policies on deselection and those transitioning between squads. Progression in climbing is not always a linear process, and not making selection or re-selection for a squad can be part of this process, but can be a challenging time for a climber and their parents/guardians.

So with this in mind we want to extend the support we can offer to those climbers in these transition periods access to a selection of academy sessions (where space permits)

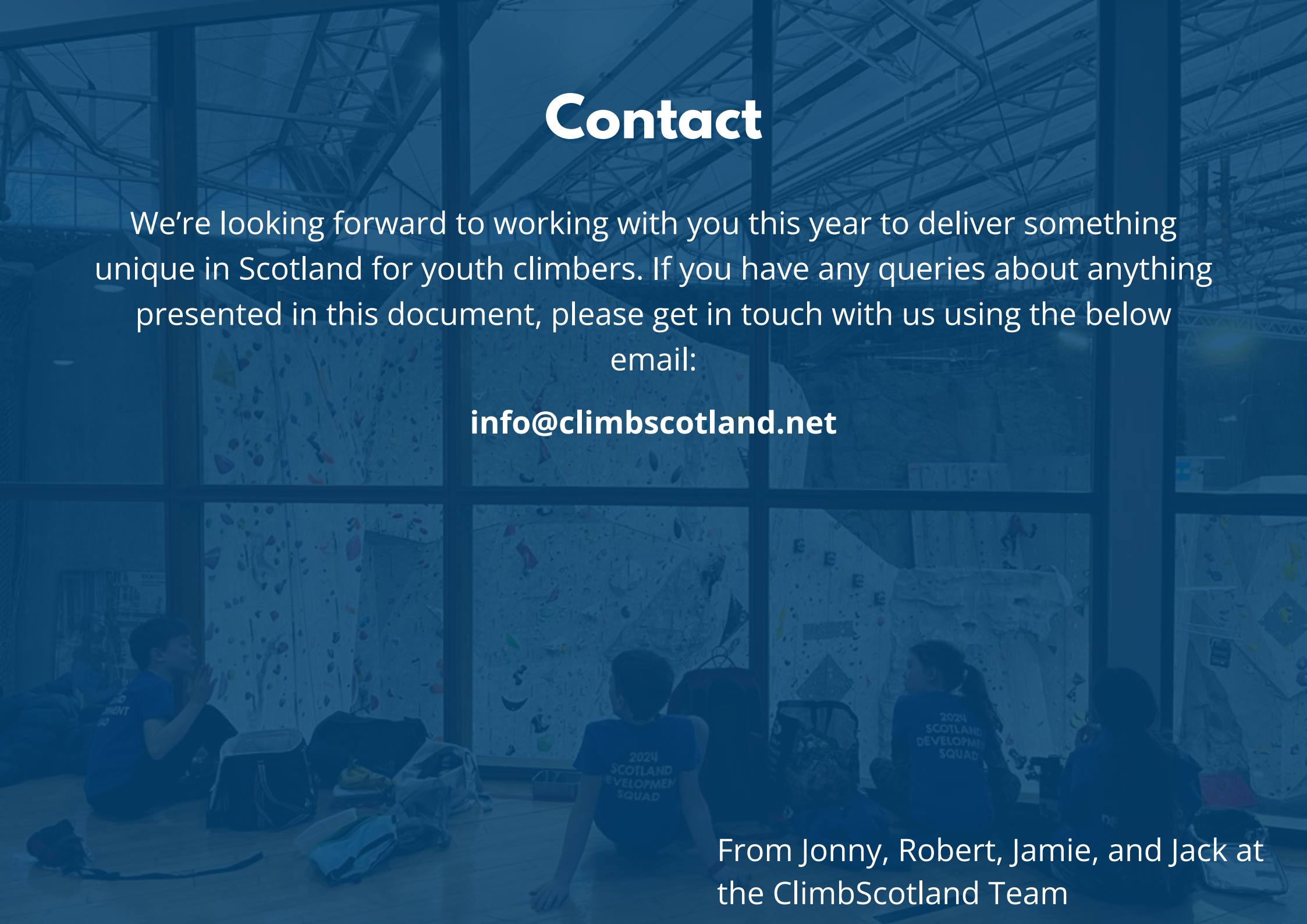
If your aim has been to get selected for either the National or Development Squads but you've missed out this year, or if you are aging out of our pathway, and you'd like to talk through what opportunities are still available to you then please do get in touch.

The Squad programme is one part of what ClimbScotland aims to provide and we are always keen to help people on their climbing journey in what ever form it might take.

Contact

We’re looking forward to working with you this year to deliver something unique in Scotland for youth climbers. If you have any queries about anything presented in this document, please get in touch with us using the below email:

info@climbscotland.net



From Jonny, Robert, Jamie, and Jack at the ClimbScotland Team