Empowering Young Mountain Entrepreneurs

Company Name

Rural Youth Project

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The Rural Youth Project is an international grassroots movement for positive change. Our mission is to empower young people to develop their leadership, enterprise & activism skills, to play an integral part in making rural places attractive and viable for young people to build their lives and their futures therein.

Smart Village Scotland is a network of connected Smart Villages, as well as an exciting economic and community development project. The network stretches across Scotland, with Smart Villages in development from Aberdeenshire and the Highlands, to Stirlingshire via Perth & Kinross.

We believe – through sharing knowledge and skills, making opportunities more accessible, and fostering greater connections and collaborations with others - we can build strong, vibrant rural communities and local economies.

Join our growing network of rural young people, organisations and businesses. Access like-minds, practical tools, and inspiration to help you thrive wherever you are.



Our Mission: Raise opportunities for young people in rural and remote areas to develop their skills, ideas and enterprises.



HOW DOES RYP SUPPORT YOUNG ENTREPRENUERS?

On the website there is an 'opportunity' map whereby members can log any interesting jobs, events, courses, businesses which they find. There is a resources section which links to external online guides/videos. These resources were chosen by the youth steering group and tend to reflect more rural advice than just basic advice which the rural youth felt didn't concern them. The site has been designed to present well on a phone or tablet and to only use technology (video calls/webinars) that work well on these devices as well. This is as most young people stated that they didn't have access to laptops or computers. They use a communication platform called Discord (discord.com) which allows for communication via voice, video or text.

They have created Smart Villages, digital communities promoting enterprise support and connectivity for rural businesses.



WHAT INFORMAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES DOES THE RYP OFFER?

- The RYP also host regular 'Idea's café's' where youth are invited to discuss a topic openly and without agenda. The last café had around 50 attendees.
- The website hosts case studies of young people to inspire and inform.
- Blog pieces written by young people
- The members areas allows young people who share similar values and experiences to connect via the rural youth forum.
- Connecting businesses and mentors through their Directory.
- Ideas Festivals and Workshops