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'Youngsters set to embark on journey of a lifetime'

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Four North Devon youngsters are set to embark on the journey of a lifetime as they take part in an exciting new version of the Gumball Rally. Armed with a Nissan Prairie and their £155 entry fee, the students are looking forward to taking to the open roads of Europe in the first Student Gumball Rally. Brad Walter from Westward Ho!, Jon Hills from Bideford, Gareth Poole from Holsworthy and Theresa Rouault from South Molton make up one team of more than 150 who will be driving 1,500 miles from the UK to Eastern Europe in just six days. The trek, which has been described as a "no-frills, more thrills challenge", will pass through Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Croatia. Organisers said the event is a chance for students to experience some of Europe's most beautiful cities while making new friends, having lots of fun and trying to win the £1,000 first prize. Brad and Jon saw the challenge on the internet, started talking about it over the breakfast table at the Royal Hotel in Bideford where they both work, and the idea went from there. Brad said the team cannot wait to start the adventure on September 3. "We are a group of four enthusiastic young people who are extremely excited about taking on this challenge and also determined to complete this for both ourselves and also for cancer research. We feel that this is a fantastic charity to support." They are looking for sponsorship and appealing for anyone who would like to help to contact them. All cash raised will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Brad can be contacted at brad_walter_8@hotmail.com or on 07737 534981 and Jon is on 07988 735545 or at jon.hills@gmail.com For more details on the rally, see www.studentgumballrally.com