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Duke of Edinburgh's Award, page 54



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It is important to note the differing structures of UK Scouting in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, for ease of reading, this supplement refers to all variations of 'County'-level groupings simply as County.

You can read Scouting magazine and Make. Do. Share online at scouts.org.uk/magazine.



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LET'S MAKE 2016 COUNT!

We're only a quarter of the way through the Scouting year and what an adventure it's already been.

Scout Community Week in October saw loads of Groups choosing an issue to tackle in their communities as part of our A Million Hands project. Now is the time to start acting on our Promise to help others and show the world that we mean to change it for the better – one community at a time.

I'm already excited about 2016, which is well and truly the year of the Cub. Celebrating one hundred years of the section, Cubs100 will see young people and volunteers from all over the UK partying to commemorate that very special birthday. We've got loads of ideas to help celebrate Cubs100 in style, so check out scouts.org.uk/cubs100 for some great inspiration.

But it's not all about Cubs. The Network section has been rebooted and is better than ever – not only does everyone

automatically become a member when they turn 18, but from 2016, there are no membership fees!

January is a great time to start looking forward to your summer adventures. While there are some fantastic events taking place overseas, there are so many adventuring opportunities on your own doorstep, from UK Jamborees to inspiring national parks and Scout Activity Centres.

So, no matter what section you're part of, make 2016 count – get out there, get inspired and get Scouting!

P.S. Please don't miss the chance to share your feedback on the magazine at magazine.scouts.org.uk/survey.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

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We want to hear your story, please send all contributions to: **stories.scouts.org.uk**

Scouting magazine accepts freelance art, photo and story submissions, however, we are unable to reply to unsuccessful pitches.

Please note that the views expressed by members and contributors in the magazine are not necessarily those of the The Scout Association.



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COTSWOLD
outdoor

GIVE MORE THAN A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Nothing beats time spent in the great outdoors. From tackling a new summit, to entertaining the kids on a weekend away, or enjoying solitary moments of calm, the right gift can open up a whole world of adventure.

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2. Berghaus Thirlmere Fleece RRP £45 OUR PRICE £25
3. Suunto Traverse GPS £285 / 4. Rab Microlight Alpine Jacket £180
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THE NEW-LOOK SCOUT NETWORK

The Scout Network is being rebooted to offer 18–25-year-olds the opportunity to achieve top awards including the Queen's Scout Award, Explorer Belt and Scouts of the World Award.

The changes being made to the fifth and final youth section in Scouting will also encourage Network members to run and participate in their own events and projects based on the adventure, community and international programme themes.

Members will be able to organise and share their project and event ideas on ukscoutnetwork.org.uk, which lets them connect with over 20,000 other Network members from their local district and across the UK.

District Network Commissioners will be appointed to manage the Scout Network Section and encourage Scout Network members to participate in the programme at a time, place and pace that suits them.

From 2016 all Scout members aged 18–25 will automatically become part of Scout Network and will no longer have to pay membership fees!

Members will develop valuable teamwork, leadership and life skills by independently initiating activities and working with others to achieve their full potential, attain recognition and continue Scouting!

If you have any questions, please email programme@scouts.org.uk.

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUSHAPE?

On 6 and 7 February 200 young people between the ages of 14–25 will come together to attend #YouShape 2016 and share their thoughts on the future of the Movement. To allow as many people as possible to join the conversation, we're encouraging members to hold their own youth forums between 1 and 7 February as part of YouShape Week. These will give young people across the UK the chance to follow the conversation online and contribute to the discussion. To give you some ideas on what to discuss and how to deliver a session during this week we've put together some resources, which you can find here: tinyurl.com/o2kbjqp.

Let us know what you have planned; if you have any questions, please email youth.shaped@scouts.org.uk or tweet using #YouShape.



GET THE CUBS100 PARTY STARTED

Cubs100 – our year-long celebration that marks 100 years of Cubs – officially kicks off next month. To help you celebrate, we've produced resource packs full of Programme ideas and activities so you can make the most of this amazing year. They're designed to support different events and opportunities throughout 2016, as well as offering great things to do with your Cubs.

Packed with activity ideas, the resource packs will also include advice to help you organise adventure camps, 'thanks' events, and everything you need to host your own Promise party in December 2016 to commemorate the official registration date of the Cub Scout section.

There will be loads of Cubs100 goodies available at Scout Shops and don't forget to check out the Cubs100 customisable resources at scouts.org.uk/brand. The Cubs100 resources and all the information you need are available at scouts.org.uk/cubs100. It's going to be one wild party!



A MILLION HANDS

Hopefully by now you and your Scouts have chosen what issue you're going to tackle in your local community as part of the A Million Hands project. If you've still not signed up, head to amillionhands.org.uk. The A Million Hands project will help our young people tackle the four social issues that matter to them most, from dementia to those disabled by society, and from improving the mental wellbeing and resilience of our communities to ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to clean water and sanitation.

Register at amillionhands.org.uk today and keep us up to date with your project.

READER SURVEY


We would love to hear your thoughts on the new-look Scouting magazine so please head over to our reader survey at magazine.scouts.org.uk/survey to share your feedback and help us to produce a brilliant magazine for you.



27–29/05/2016

19–21/08/2016

7–9/10/2016

Celebrate  by booking your pack onto a Big adventure weekend at Great Tower Scout Activity Centre.

Hosting our wildest Cub programme ever, we've squeezed in ghyll scrambling, kayaking, rock climbing, high ropes and you can even summit a mountain!

Visit scouts.org.uk/cubs100 for more information and call us on **01539 531279** to book – limited spaces available, so first come first served.

Big adventure weekends also available at Downe, Gilwell Park, Hawkthirst, Woodhouse Park and Youlbury. Enquire direct to centre for more information.

SCOUT 
Activity Centres

WHY EVERY MEMBER COUNTS – CENSUS 2016

Locally and nationally, we are all committed to achieving Scouting for all, growing the movement and increasing our diversity. However, to help us measure our key targets, it's vital that we have an accurate picture of the membership and that's why it is so important for us to have a census.

Census 2016 is almost due and this year the HQ membership fee will be calculated based on the number of young people in each Scout County/Area/Region (Scotland).

Census 2016 will be taken on 31 January, so please ensure your records are up to date. For more information on census, go to scouts.org.uk/census.



SCOUTS APPOINT FIRST FEMALE CHAIR

Former senior civil servant and teacher Ann Limb has become Scouts' first female Chair after she took over from Sir Alan Craft. Ann is a highly experienced chair and non-executive director involved in organisations across the charitable, private and public sectors.

Deeply committed to young people's development, Anne is a strong advocate of the vision, mission and values of The Scout Association. Her belief is that 'We have to challenge the corporate world to engage more with volunteering' and hopes to target the over-55s to help out, adding, 'You don't have to be running a Group every Tuesday to be playing a worthwhile part'.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP FEES

Following a consultation with volunteers, The Scout Association's Board of Trustees has decided that, from January 2016, the UKHQ membership fee should not be levied for adult members. To make volunteering more attractive, it will be calculated based on numbers of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts.

The new UKHQ membership fee will be collected annually and will be standardised at £25.50 (£25 for prompt payment) for all members under 18 years of age. For more information, go to scouts.org.uk/membershipfee.

NEW YEAR, NEW ADVENTURES

2016 will be jam-packed with fantastic Scouting events taking place all over the world. While Roverway will see thousands of Scouts and Guides gathering for an adventure in France during the summer, there will be loads going on closer to home, including Birmingham County's second International Jamboree, BrumJam 2016. The Kent International Jamboree will take place at the end of July in Detling, while the Essex International Jamboree – the UK's largest international Scout and Guide Jamboree for 10 to 17-year-olds – is once again returning to Chelmsford in 2016. Let us know which events you'll be attending and don't forget to post your photos on our Facebook and Twitter channels.

LOCAL COMPASS ACCESS

Preparations continue to restore local access to Compass. When it re-launches, you'll have access to the data of all members over 18. We're emailing regular progress updates, along with prompts for what you need to do. See scouts.org.uk/compass.





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DECEMBER



4 DECEMBER

Hill and Mountain Skills Course

These Mountain Training accredited skills courses aim to develop practical skills for beginners. Participants must register with Mountain Training before participating. It costs £70 per person (or £35 with funding) and accommodation, food and full training are included.
tinyurl.com/nkbhc9d

4–6 DECEMBER

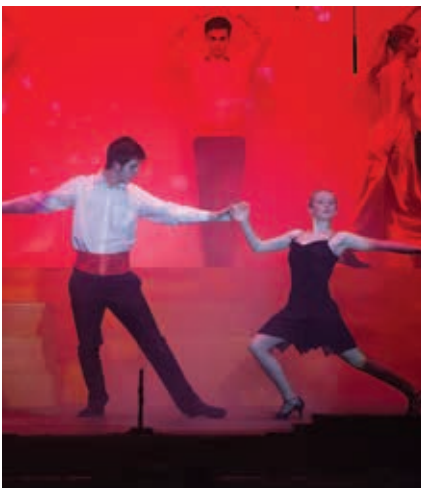
Rescue Emergency Care Course

This two-day course is designed for people who use the outdoors for pleasure and instructing. It is suitable for a wide variety of instructors, including Scout leaders, climbers and canoeists. It costs £160 per person (or £80 with funding) and includes accommodation, food and full training.
tinyurl.com/pwmpk49

10 DECEMBER

YouShape Twitter question and answer sessions

On the lead up to #YouShape, the team will be hosting Twitter question and answer sessions for young people to ask questions about the things that matter to them. Look out for information about the Twitter discussion on our social media channels: @Scouts, @ScoutingUK and [Facebook.com/scoutassociation](https://www.facebook.com/scoutassociation).



THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Scout Gang Shows

Gang Show season gets into full swing in December, with performances planned across the country. Make sure you book tickets early to see your local show. For the latest listings, visit: tinyurl.com/pkrs4p8. For details on how to plan your own show, go to tinyurl.com/p3h7fy5.

CHECKLIST

☒ Use the A Million Hands resource pack to run Plan Action activities.

☒ Put the Day of Celebration and Achievement, taking place on 24 April 2016, in your diary.

☒ We're inviting County Programme teams to have their say on the refreshed Programme. Keep an eye on scouts.org.uk for details of how to join us at a forum.

☒ Book a place on Cave Permit Training on 8 and 30 January to learn all kinds of caving skills.
tinyurl.com/pyxykwq

OTHER DATES

1 December

Giving Tuesday, global

Get your Scouts out into your local community to lend a helping hand on this global day of giving.

5 December

International Volunteer Day

Join other Groups or have a party at your HQ to celebrate volunteering in all forms.
tinyurl.com/yfspr2q

10 December

Human Rights Day

This year the theme is Human Rights 365 – the idea that every day is Human Rights Day.
tinyurl.com/bmpovft

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scouts.org.uk/shop

JANUARY

8 JANUARY

Wintercamp

Welcome to the sub-zero adventure! Wintercamp is an activity camp running right in the middle of winter. Be brave, be challenged, be amazed by this brilliant (if cold) weekend of thrills and spills for Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Rangers. Find out more information at wintercamp.org.uk.



BRING IT TO LIFE

Have your very own Wintercamp with your younger sections at your Scout HQ. Use the Where's Bear? spotting activity in the back section of this issue of Scouting as part of your fun-filled winter-themed programme.

Follow our Facebook and Pinterest pages for more activity ideas: facebook.com/scoutassociation and pinterest.com/ukscouting.

22 JANUARY

Winter Mountain Skills Course

This four-day training course can be run at two levels.

The introductory course covers scrambling, winter navigation, crampons, ice axes and quality mountain days, while the intermediate course covers a refresher of basic skills, ropework and belays, party leadership and winter climbing. tinyurl.com/oowy2mw

29 JANUARY

Camp Craft Skills Course

This course is based on useful camp skills using axes and saws, tent pitching and care, knots and lashings, pioneering and camp gadgets. The skills covered on this course can count towards validation of parts of Module 38. Prices are £75 per person or £37.50 with DGB funding. tinyurl.com/pncog5x



CHECKLIST

☒ Work with the A Million Hands resource pack to support your young people to Take Action.

☒ Have you got your Cubs100 celebrations sorted? Head to scouts.org.uk/cubs100 for details of how to plan the wildest birthday ever.

☒ Changes to the Scout Network take effect now – if you have any questions, check out the Network FAQ page. tinyurl.com/on4sps5

☒ Now is the time to start planning for the summer. Head to page 51 for tips on how to plan a camp on a budget.

OTHER DATES

25 January

Burns' Night

Boil the haggis, recite some poetry and get your Scouts involved in a ceilidh to honour all things Robert Burns.

30 January

Winter Pride, London

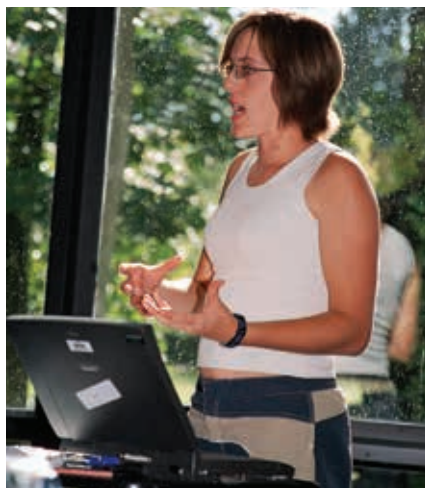
Head down to New Kent Road to promote awareness of LGBT communities around the world. winterprideuk.com

31 January

Tough Guy: The Original, Tettenhall Horse Sanctuary

The world's toughest obstacle race open to anyone from 16–116. tinyurl.com/qy2xf8l

FEBRUARY



5 FEBRUARY

DofE Training Weekend

Anyone wanting to run the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with their Explorer/Network section or become a supervisor/assessor is invited to attend this three-day course. It will be split between an introduction on how to start, and Expedition Supervisor and Expedition Assessor courses. tiny.cc/dofetraining2015

5–7 FEBRUARY

YouShape

Following last year's hugely successful event, YouShape 2016 promises to be bigger and better, giving even more young people the chance to shape their own Scouting. If you're interested in finding out how your section can get involved, head to members.scouts.org.uk/youthcouncil.



BRING IT TO LIFE

Why not theme your Scout night around the founder of Scouting with Robert Baden-Powell-inspired activities, from word games and quizzes to holding your celebratory birthday bash in honour of the great man. There's no better way to remember this 10-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Check out scouts.org.uk/pol for loads of great ideas.

> 22 FEBRUARY

Founder's Day

Celebrate the birthday of Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell (1857–1941).

To this day, Scouts continue to enjoy activities in the outdoors and live out Lord Baden-Powell's innovative and inspiring ideas. As the great man once said, 'Life without adventure would be deadly dull.'

CHECKLIST

☒ Work with the A Million Hands resource pack to support your young people to Take Action.

☒ A memorial service for Major General M J H Walsh will take place on 4 February at RMA Sandhurst. To attend, email: INFHQ-PARA-CentRegt-EI@mod.uk.

☒ Get involved in YouShape week from 1–7 February and set up your own forums. tinyurl.com/o2kbjpkp

☒ Visit tsmp.org.uk to get the most up to date information on the Scouting Memorial Project plans.

OTHER DATES

8 February

Chinese New Year

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with your Scouts and get the Year of the Monkey off to a great start.

9 February

Shrove Tuesday

Create pancake pandemonium at your Scout HQ with a Group-wide crepe-off to put their cooking skills to the test!

14 February

Valentine's Day

Teach your Scouts about the history of this red-letter day or get them to make some Valentine's treats.

Everyone was incredible.

I learnt that my
only limits are the
limits I choose to
set myself.

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never forget.

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THE ORIGINS OF CUBS

In January 1914 a pilot programme for younger boys named 'Wolf Cubs or Junior Scouts' was launched and 12 months later the section was 10,000 strong.

After a two-year trial it was time to decide what to do with the Wolf Cubs. In June 1916 the first Cubmasters Conference was held and the following month Lady Scoutmaster Vera Barclay, who established one of the first Cub packs in 1914, was appointed as Assistant Secretary - Cubs.

Momentum gathered; in October it was announced that the Wolf Cubs '... has been put on to an official standing in the Boy Scout Association'. At the end of November the Wolf Cub Handbook and Magazine were published and on 16 December a launch was held with a Wolf Cubs display at Caxton Hall, London.

Influential guests were invited to the Wolf Cubs' display. Following a speech from Baden-Powell, guests were presented with displays of Cub activities including gymnastics and 'good turns', a Grand Howl and the investiture of a new Cub.

Many of the skills the early Wolf Cubs were taught are still on the Programme today, including First Aid and helping around the home.



HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR LIFE SAVING HEART RESEARCH **AND YOUR GROUP**

Skipping is a great way for Scouts of different ages and abilities to have fun and get active.

Group Leaders receive a free resources pack worth £30 containing everything they need to introduce skipping.

Over 250,000 children took part in Jump Rope For Heart last year. Find out how your Group can also benefit at bhf.org.uk/jumprope

**FIGHT
FOR EVERY
HEARTBEAT**

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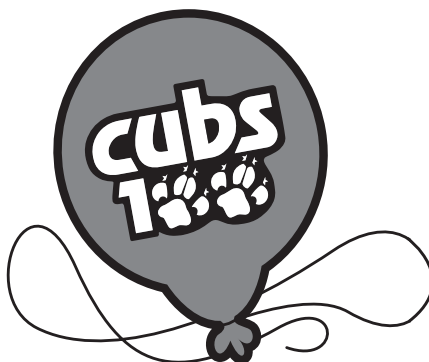
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ASK THE COMMISSIONERS

We've got UK Chief Commissioner Wayne Bulpitt and his team on hand to answer your questions about Scouting. Here's what they had to say...



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CHANGES HAPPENING AND ARE THESE REALLY NECESSARY?

As you can read on page 11, the basis of collecting the membership fee will change from 2016 to be calculated on the number of young people only.

The change has been made so that we can encourage more flexible volunteering, and remove some hurdles between different categories of volunteers. It also allows us to require all adults on Executive Committees, whether Group or District etc, to become members or associate members of the Association without incurring significant additional local expense.

You only need to read any national media source presently to hear of

charities that are encountering difficulties in which the role of trustees is being questioned. We have been aware for a little while that Group and District trustees in particular have been poorly supported. As you can read on page 22, we plan to change this after 1 January 2016 to ensure that they are provided with the support that they have told us they would like.

Another, very different, catalyst for change this year is the centenary of Cub Scouts. After 100 amazing years we have an opportunity through the 'Wildest birthday party ever' theme to ensure that we are providing 9- and 10-year-olds with more outdoor adventure in their Programme. This is something they have told us they would like more of, so that we can look forward to another century by growing the sections.

As always, change is never easy but in understanding the drivers for change and by providing you with the appropriate support and resources, we very much hope that you will be able to capitalise on these and the other catalysts for change that we have.

Wayne Bulpitt, UK Chief
Commissioner

THE BRIEFING: ANSWERED

WHY HAS SCOUT NETWORK MOVED TO THE DISTRICT?

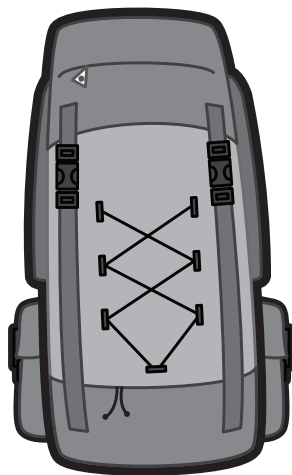
The structure and Programme of Scout Network has changed. Most young adults aged 18 to 25 in Scouting previously had no access to Scout Network. The establishment of District Scout Networks allows us to build on the amazing success of Explorer Scouts, creating clear routes for them to continue their Scouting close to home. Get in touch with your District Scout Network Commissioner to find out more about what's happening.

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme

I'VE JUST BECOME AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER; AM I A MEMBER OF SCOUTING? WHAT ABOUT TRAINING?

Welcome to Scouting! From January 2016, all adults on Executive Committees (whether Group, District, County/Area or Region) will need to become members or associate members of The Scout Association. This means volunteers like yourself can benefit from the resources, training and support that comes with the membership. This won't cost anything, as from 2016 Scouting's membership fee will be free to adults.

Members of the Association receive the full membership benefits (including Scouting magazine, training, and a higher insurance cover level), can wear the uniform if they choose to and make the relevant Promise. Associate members also receive the full membership benefits, can choose to wear the uniform



(without the Membership Badge), but don't need to take the Promise.

With training, from an Executive Committee's first AGM after 1 January 2016, all Committee Members must complete Module 1 (Essential Information). A Module 1 version just for Executive Committee Members is being launched in January 2016, with all the essentials Committee members need to know.

More information can be found here:
tinyurl.com/qfqpyeu

Kester Sharpe
UK Commissioner for Adult Support

HOW DO WE ENSURE THAT 50% OF THE SCOUTING PROGRAMME IS GEARED TOWARDS THE OUTDOORS AND ADVENTURE?

Young people stay in Scouting when they have opportunities to get outdoors and shape their own adventures. Delivering adventurous experiences doesn't mean that you need to have every permit available. It might mean making better use of nearby activity centres and speaking with your young people about what

they think is adventurous. Of course, if you're really keen, why not work towards a permit?

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme

WHAT IS THE KEY PURPOSE OF APPOINTING AND SUPPORTING A YOUTH COMMISSIONER IN MY LOCAL AREA?

The aim of introducing Local Youth Commissioners is to create a catalyst for youth-shaped Scouting in your local area. The youth commissioner's key purpose will be to support adult leaders in your District/County/Area to deliver a youth-shaped programme including sectional-based forums, as well as focusing on providing a platform in your local area for young people to have their voices heard on issues that matter to them. This could be through a youth forum, or it could be in a totally new and inventive way.

The main thing is that this volunteer isn't in the role to be the only young person with an opinion to be heard. They are there to support all young people in your local area to shape their Scouting experience.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

WHY DOES A YOUTH COMMISSIONER HAVE TO BE AGED 18–25?

It was decided, to ensure the role had credibility and accountability, that it needed to be a full adult appointment,

which in Scouting terms means it needs to be over 18. The role also needs to be over 18 as we are working towards them becoming members of the Executive Committees. This will therefore require Local Youth Commissioners to be over 18 due to charity law.

In addition to this, the youth commissioner role is age limited as we want the role to help further develop young people with potential for management roles within Scouting. This doesn't mean if you're under 25 you can't take a different commissioner or manager role.

At the age of 18 I took on my first volunteer management position as Assistant County Commissioner for Explorer Scouts – and having this opportunity to be supported and developed by my County while in this role has helped to get me where I am in life today.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

WE'RE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CUBS IN 2016, BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEAVERS?

It was agreed in 2010 which anniversaries would be marked, including focusing on 100 years of Cub Scouts in 2016.

The number of Cubs enjoying fun, challenge and adventure has dipped in recent years; 2016 gives us a great opportunity to look forward and address the challenges in growing the section by providing more outdoor

activities in the Programme.

Of course, 30 years of Beavers is also an incredible milestone and local activities and celebrations should be encouraged. This could be achieved by making the most of the renewed Beaver programme in 2016.

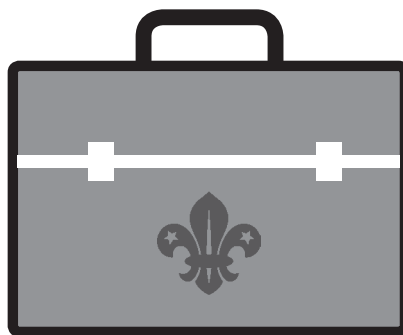
Local activities and celebrations involving Beavers and Cubs might also be appropriate. Check out scouts.org.uk/cubs100 for resources to help you celebrate Cubs100.

Craig Turpie
UK Commissioner for Programme

I'M A GROUP SCOUT LEADER (GSL), AND I KEEP HEARING MY ROLE REFERRED TO AS A MANAGEMENT POSITION. WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN?

There are two types of roles for adults in Scouting: working with young people and supporting those who work with them.

Some of these support roles (like GSL, DESC, DC and County/Area/Regional Commissioners) are responsible for other volunteers and we refer to them as managers.



Some people say that using the word 'manager' makes Scouting seem like work. But this misses the point that good management is about providing effective support and good leadership to our adult volunteers so that they can focus on their own role.

Regardless of the word we use to describe your role, the contribution of a Group Scout Leader is a vital part of Scouting – providing other adults with an excellent Scouting experience. It's also essential in supporting those working directly with young people to ensure they are motivated, inspired and focused on providing first-class Scouting for the young people in their sections.

More information can be found here: scouts.org.uk/managers

Tim Kidd
Deputy UK Chief Commissioner
Kester Sharpe
UK Commissioner for Adult Support

I DON'T WANT TO BE A GROUP SCOUT LEADER BECAUSE THERE IS TOO MUCH TO DO; WHY DOES THE ROLE HAVE TO BE SO BIG?

There are many myths around how big and complicated roles like the Group Scout Leader (GSL) are, which sometimes leave people feeling they don't have the time, ability or even desire to do the role. As a result, there are still many Groups that don't have a GSL in place. We truly believe that it is important every Scout Group has a GSL as the evidence shows these Groups tend to be the most successful with the strongest Programmes. We are always keen to encourage ►

and support people to give this role a go as they often find it much easier than they expected.

In a nutshell, the role is about making sure the right atmosphere exists and providing leadership and support to everyone in the Group as and when they need it. How formally or informally you choose to provide this is down to you and your team.

You may want to encourage and support your team in finding additional volunteers for the Group or a parent helper rota so there are leaders who can successfully continue if someone's circumstances change and they can no longer volunteer.

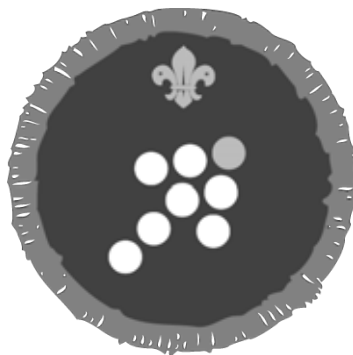
Being GSL isn't about having to look after the building and the accounts, your Executive Committee should look after that for you so you can focus on the young people.

Helping the team to deliver a great Programme every week is the difference between a young person deciding to turn up or not. You know your Group better than anyone and know what it needs to give young people the best time possible!

Alex Peace-Gadsby and Mark Tarry
Chief Commissioners of England

HOW ARE WE EMBEDDING YOUTH-SHAPED SCOUTING IN THE PROGRAMME?

As part of the updated programme, the Team Work Challenge Award for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Team Leader Challenge Awards for Cubs and Scouts and a Leadership Activity



badge for Explorers were introduced. These require young people to work with others to undertake or make something, to share their skills with others and to take part in youth forums in order to make a contribution to their sections.

These activities allow young people to develop their confidence in sharing, speaking up with their peers and using skills and the knowledge they already have to help others.

The requirements and further information on these awards and badges can be found at members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources.

Additional support resources are being developed to support those with additional needs to fully participate and achieve these awards. Talk to your local Youth Commissioner for additional support on developing youth-shaped Scouting in your Group or section.

In addition to this, your section can get involved during YouShape Week 2016. Resources are currently being finalised for the week and will include games and activities to help you to deliver sessions on youth-shaped Scouting with your young people.

More information will be made available on the website and on social media in the coming weeks.

Hannah Kentish
UK Youth Commissioner

WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I GET ACCESS TO COMPASS AGAIN?

At the time of going to press (Monday 16 November) we're anticipating that access to Compass will be restored towards the end of January 2016.

The reintroduction will be phased, with different appointments being given access in stages as the roll-out progresses. The restored version of Compass will look very similar to the one available in January 2015. However the functionality and data will relate only to members over 18. All youth data will have been removed and is being retained securely.

The important issue for local Scouting now is to ensure that Compass is as up to date as possible (using the update process) and critically that every member over 18 who requires a disclosure has one.

Alex Peace-Gadsby and Mark Tarry
Chief Commissioners of England

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

We're running live, regular, online question and answer sessions with the Commissioners. You can register your interest or submit your questions for them by visiting scouts.org.uk/connect and we'll send you details of the next session.



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A photograph of a young man with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark blue Scout uniform with a green neckerchief and several patches. He is standing on a city street at night, looking towards the left. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible, out of focus. The background shows a city street with a yellow and green taxi, streetlights, and a large, multi-story building with many lit windows.

A rough idea

As part of a project to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness in Merseyside, a Group of Scouts from Liverpool encouraged the city's young people to spend a night sleeping rough

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Barry Makariou



MERSEYSIDE SCOUT SLEEP OUT

AS 1ST WALTON on the Hill (WOTH) Scout Group's leaders trickle into the foyer of St Athanasius Church in Liverpool they each introduce themselves with a smile and a tale of the day's events. They range from gruelling 12-hour shifts to tiring days enduring the challenges of the final stages of pregnancy.

Soon enough the room is filled with people and the cacophony of numerous conversations taking place. With a steaming cup of tea and the comfort of knowing there's a lovely soft bed to return to later tonight we're happy to crack on with entertaining the troops for a few hours. But what would we do without a home to return to? Without a space to call our own or a bed to sleep in?

According to the latest statistics from Homeless Link, the national membership charity for organisations working directly with homeless people, rough sleeping in the UK has risen by 55% since 2010.

Homelessness and rough sleeping affects a staggering number of people all over the UK, and these percentages are made even more shocking by the knowledge that many of those sleeping rough aren't even included in the figures.

Grant, one of 1st WOTH's young leaders tells me, 'It's like 60% of the people on the streets aren't even known about. That's quite a lot when you think about it. It's a big number as it is, and then there's 60% missing and

they're getting no help whatsoever.' Recognising how huge this issue is, Scouts from Liverpool's 1st WOTH Group decided that homelessness and rough sleeping in Merseyside needs addressing and they are focused on shining the light on those curling up in dark doorways each night.

It all started when Grant went on a youth engagement tour and travelled to London to take part in a group discussion about the things young people would like to change in their community.

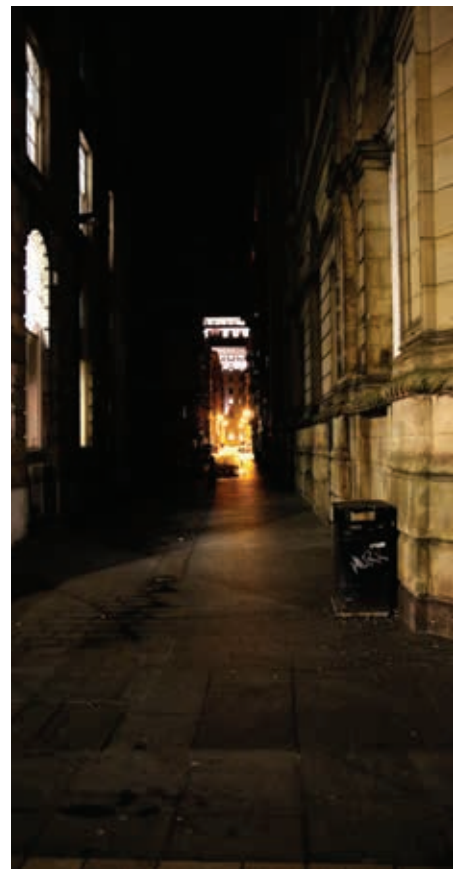
Among some of the other big issues, which are now being tackled by the A Million Hands project, one of the recurring themes was homelessness. It's an issue Grant was aware of but ►





‘It’s like 60% of the people on the streets aren’t even known about. That’s quite a lot when you think about it’

GRANT, YOUNG LEADER, 1ST WOTH SCOUTS





‘The most shocking thing is that every one of us could be homeless – and that’s scary’

ABBIE, 1ST WOTH SCOUTS

not initially knowledgeable about. On his journey home he began exploring ways that the Group could help, and that’s when County Chairman Steve MacFarlane stepped in and suggested Liverpool’s leading homeless and housing charity, the Whitechapel Centre, as a place to begin the community impact project.

Upon returning to Liverpool, Scouts

from 1st WOTH contacted the staff at the Whitechapel Centre and the two teams coordinated working together to raise awareness about the problem of rough sleeping in Merseyside.

After discussing how they could help, the Group agreed on carrying around No Second Night Out cards which have a number for them to call and alert the centre if they see anyone living on the streets who looks like they need help.

They also organised workshops for Beavers and Cubs in order to help them understand the issue, but in a fun way. A number of Scouts spoke to staff at the Whitechapel Centre and to people who had been directly affected by homelessness to learn how many people are touched by the problem and how easy it is for people to find

themselves on the streets.

‘He was telling us how he became homeless. He got kicked out and then he started drinking when he was out. He went to prison at one point and then when he got out he started taking drugs. He kept getting told about the Whitechapel Centre but he never went.’ Grant tells the story of one individual who had completely spiralled out of control and thanked the Whitechapel Centre for stepping in and helping him to get his life back on track. Mental health is often linked to homelessness and rough sleeping so it’s vital that people on the streets have someone to turn to during times like these.

As you can probably guess, this Group has learned a lot about homelessness ►





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and rough sleeping since the project began. When asked what information surprised them most, Abbie, another Group member, didn't hesitate to respond; 'The most shocking thing is that every one of us could be homeless. That's scary.'

With that in mind, this conscientious Group has also organised a Sleep Out for the young people of Liverpool and is launching a new website packed with information and Programme plans for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The date of the Sleep Out was set to coincide with World Homelessness Day, and Grant begins to tell me all about it: 'It's £3.50 to take part and you can be sponsored to do it as well if you want. It's gonna be all to do with surviving on the streets; there's gonna be one or two serious activities because you sort of need that to keep the meaning there, but we'll try and keep it as fun and light as possible.'

'We'll also be building the shelters ourselves, and that's what we'll be sleeping in,' Abbie pipes up.

Tonight I get to see first-hand the type of shelters they'll be sleeping in as the Group runs an evening of fun but informative activities for the younger Groups in their section. 'They're not that good at being waterproof or anything but they are good for keeping the heat,' Grant explains as he curls up in his makeshift bed of cardboard and bin bags.

This is just one of the activities they have planned for the evening, as well as an energetic game resembling tag which wears everyone out, me included. The most impressive thing about the evening's events is that they

have all been planned and are being run by the young people themselves. Grant explains that the Group has only paired up with the centre a handful of times but that their help has been invaluable: 'When we've needed someone to come in and explain something, we'll ask and the next week they'll be here to help us out. They're very keen to speak to us.'

Most of the time the team have worked on the project alone, feeling informed and empowered enough to spread the word and make a change without a larger team. Group Scout Leader Barbara Hughes has given them the freedom to make their own decisions and own the project.

This small Group of young individuals has been tackling the issue head on

'If each Group does something small then it will be massive'

GRANT, YOUNG LEADER, 1ST WOTH SCOUTS

with only nine key players; Grant, Emily, Rose, Abbie, Tyler, Jack, Robbie, Mikey and Amber. They weren't fazed by the lack of manpower though and even suggested that having a smaller group works to your advantage: 'In a bigger Group loads of people would just come up with lots of ideas, but because there's only a few of us we've been able to focus our ideas,' Grant tells me. Having a smaller team has given them greater responsibility and ownership of the project.

They've all done so much leading up to the Scout Sleep Out, but what will happen after the event? 'We'll make packages with ways to help other Groups educate their Scouts. We don't really want to do anything else massive, but if each Group does something small then it will be massive. Small acts of kindness lead to great acts of good,' says Grant.

So if you're choosing your challenge for A Million Hands, or wondering what issue you want to tackle next, the 1st WOTH Scout Group have some great advice: 'Don't be afraid of costs or manpower because if it's a good idea, someone bigger than you will say, "We'll help out here". It might be someone from your county or someone national. Don't be afraid of the idea and don't be afraid to try it, because if you don't try it, it's never getting done. If you don't try, there's no chance.' ♣





HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THEIR SCOUT SLEEP OUT EVENT, LIVERPOOL'S 1ST WALTON ON THE HILL SCOUTS OFFER THEIR TOP TIPS FOR ORGANISING A COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT...

PICK AN ISSUE THAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT

You're much more likely to give a project the time and effort it deserves if it's tackling an issue that you genuinely care about. The same goes for your Scouts.

MAKE SURE YOU ENJOY YOURSELF

While Scouting is all about challenge and adventure, it is also about having fun. Remember that creativity and enthusiasm comes much more naturally when everyone involved is enjoying themselves.

KEEP IT YOUTH-LED

Allow your Scouts to take control of the project. This is an exciting opportunity for them to show their skills and encourages them to think for themselves.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

When coming up with event and activity ideas, consider planning something a bit different to help you stand out from the crowd. It also makes things more interesting for everyone working on the project.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO BIG

It doesn't matter how big your Group is, if an issue is important you'll find the help you need.

BE SOCIAL

Harness the power of social media by sharing your project with the world (or at least your Facebook friends).

INVOLVE EVERYONE'S IDEAS

It's important to have a mix of ideas to ensure everyone feels involved and to keep the creative process fresh.

A MILLION HANDS

Want to make a difference in your own community? Then get involved with A Million Hands, our community impact project designed to tackle the issues of dementia, disability, mental wellbeing and clean water and sanitation. For details, go to amillionhands.org.uk/resource.



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Starting over

Working with young people can be challenging, but finding a way to resolve differences is the greatest test of all

As told to Celeste Houliker | Illustration: Simon Prades

‘I DIDN’T SIGN up for this!’

As I explained to my colleague I was having an issue with one of my Explorers, I tried to hold back the tears but they soon came streaming down my face; each teardrop signifying failure, rejection and frustration.

It was the start of the new year and my Group was hosting a large youth event; the atmosphere was buzzing. In the midst of it all, I had a disagreement with one of the Explorers, which took place in front of a group of girls I was also responsible for.

Most of the girls in the group mimicked their friend’s challenging behaviour, which left me fighting a losing battle between a group of strong-willed teenage girls. Trying to get back-chatting teens to do something they don’t want to do is like entering into a ring with 10 sumo wrestlers – you’re going to get crushed.

My leadership and the relationship I had developed with that Explorer had been rejected and I couldn’t see how I was going to be able to turn the situation around.

During my outburst, my colleague told me about her own experiences as a youth leader and the times when everything went wrong for her too.

‘These situations happen; you’re not always going to experience happy days with your young people,’ she said. ‘There will be times when you won’t get along, but you have to push through and be there. Don’t give up and especially don’t give up on them.’

She then went on to share with me stories of leaders I knew and admired, and the problems they have faced. It was encouraging to know that others have found it difficult to relate to their young people but now have a flourishing relationship with them.

In the weeks that followed the event, the Explorer I had fallen out with gave me the cold shoulder. I had to turn the situation around somehow. I took on board what my colleague said and pursued developing a better relationship with the young person. When pursuing her, I made sure she knew I was there for her and that I cared about her personal development. Slowly she began to open up to me

again and the cold shoulder was beginning to warm up.

I made sure my time spent with the Group was shared equally, that way it didn’t come across as if I had favourites and she wasn’t one of them. I sought to encourage her even when she didn’t need my encouragement. It’s amazing how reminding a young person how great they are at doing a task, or pointing out to them hidden talents that they never knew they had boosts their confidence.

After I persistently pursued and encouraged her over time our relationship developed into one that is stronger than it was before our disagreement. I also learnt how to handle conflict better when working with young people.

I’m a leader because I enjoy helping young people develop. Scouting is a great place for young people and adults to learn how to develop relationships, resolve differences and learn from each other – all so that young person can develop into the well-rounded individual Scouting helps them to be. ♣



Everyone's a winner

Scout's award season is on its way and it's time to nominate. In anticipation, we met a few of our most recent, inspiring winners

Words: Celeste Houlker | Pictures: Alun Callender

AUDREY PEARCE, 66, GROUP SCOUT LEADER, 43RD (NORTHAMPTON) LUMBERTUBS

Audrey was awarded the Bar To Silver Acorn for her service to Scouting and having a positive impact on the lives of young people and adult volunteers for over 40 years.

'When I received the award I thought, "why me?" I volunteer because I enjoy it; Scouting has had a great impact on my life. We are a Scouting family through and through – my son is a Scout leader, my middle daughter is a Cub leader, my eldest daughter is a Beaver leader. My two grandsons are

Scouts, one is a Cub and one is a Scout.

'I retired four years ago and thought I was going to be bored but I took on more Scouting in that time and it keeps me going! I can never find the time to be bored. I thoroughly enjoy what I do and what I get out of it is to see the young people change. One thing that is really nice is when they bring their children back into the Group – I've been there long enough to have seen that!

'When my husband passed away, the people I know through Scouting were so great; they really helped my family and I during a tough time. We raised

£15,000 to build an activity centre in my husband's memory. That's what my husband would have liked because he loved working with children.

'We're very lucky that when our Scouts are ready to leave none of them really wants to leave the Group; they want to stay on to be young leaders and some of them go on to be young leaders in another Group. I nominated some of our leaders for awards last year for their amazing work.

'Nominating someone really shows an appreciation of what they do; volunteers give up their time to help others and it's really inspiring.' ►

SCOUTING AWARDS

AMIR CHEEMA, DEPUTY CHAIR MSF,
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, BRUNEL
SCOUT DISTRICT

Amir was awarded an MBE for his work with the Muslim Scout Fellowship and contribution to Scouting. Through the Muslim Scout Fellowship, Amir has helped to increase integration in his local multi-cultural community.

‘In May 2014 I received the Points of Light award from the Prime Minister David Cameron, which I received for leadership in the community and bringing people together. When I received my award I was grateful for the recognition, but it’s not only me – there are leaders working tirelessly within the Muslim Scout Fellowship across the country.

‘Scouting gives young people the opportunity for them to be the person that they want to be.

‘I started originally when my children were at the age when they wanted to get involved in Scouting and extra curricular activities and in Bristol there was a waiting list, so I joined and supported the local group as a Beaver Leader and then started a new Group. After that I helped start the Muslim Scout Fellowship.

‘I’ve done lots of youth work in the past; I’m a retired captain in the Territorial Army so I’ve worked in different areas of the community.

‘I’ve been quite fortunate to travel a bit when I was younger and witness people working better when they are working closely with each other. I would like to get people working closer together to achieve their full potential.

‘Anything is possible – have a dream and make that dream happen.’

ALISON MCCANN, 14, EXPLORER
SCOUT, 33RD AYRSHIRE

Alison was awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for her amazing leadership and sporting achievements while dealing with a disability.

‘I have a condition called scoliosis, which can be really painful. To get through the hard times it’s good to have something like Scouts and knowing you always have people to support you and share the fun times with. Scouting gives you opportunities to be with people you love and you love to be with.

‘Going to Windsor Castle for my award is one of my Scouting highlights and it was amazing. Receiving my award was completely overwhelming. I felt honoured and so grateful; it was really exciting but nerve-racking at the same time. I felt a big mixture of emotions, but overall I felt really honoured and grateful to the Movement to have been given it.

‘Since the award I have done a sponsored 44-mile walk to give back to one of the foundations that works with the hospital where I had my operation. A couple of my Scout leaders came along with me and we raised £1,200. We also did another walk that had the highest peaks in the District (I’m really into my walking) and it was over 17 miles – my dad even joined me on this one.

‘The advice I would give to young people who have a disability is to

‘Nominating people for awards will give them a lot of self-confidence’

ALISON MCCANN, EXPLORER SCOUT

know what you can and can’t do and if it’s something that you really want to do, see if there is a way you can.

Also, just look at the things you can do rather than the things you can’t do and know that you can talk to people.

‘There are always people out there who are willing to talk to you and I’ve found that talking to someone who has been through the same thing is really helpful. Even talking to a parent or someone you know who is just going to be there for you is really helpful and just look at the positives rather than the negatives.

‘Nominating people for awards shows that you support them, that you’re proud of them, that you support the things that they’ve done and you recognise what they have been through. It will give someone a lot of self-confidence.’

SOPHIE SHUTE, 6, BEAVER, 14TH
ALDERSHOT BEAVERS

Sophie showed great confidence when using her day-old first aid skills when her mother Andrea collapsed in their home. Her fearless attitude has inspired her Colony, school friends and family. Andrea picks up the story...

‘Scouting is new for our family; ►



Clockwise from above: Amir Cheema at the 2015 Muslim Scout Fellowship Olympics; Explorer Scout Alison McCann was awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for her leadership and sporting achievements; Beaver Sophie Shute showed extraordinary courage when her mother Andrea collapsed





‘Sophie’s incredible achievement has inspired her community. We’re all extremely proud’

ANDREA SHUTE

we have become more involved within the last year since my eldest daughter Mia, who is a Scout, started attending. She had been finding it difficult to make friends at school and had been bullied a lot. Scouting has really helped her to open up more to people and to become a fun loving and confident teenager.

‘Our youngest daughter Sophie, who is six, has been attending Beavers for about a month. It was only the night before I collapsed when she completed her first aid training at Beavers.

‘I woke up extra early one morning and was feeling very strange. I began to make my way upstairs to wake my husband out of bed; as I was walking through the hallway, I fell to the floor and I was lying there for a while. I couldn’t move, I couldn’t talk it was awful! I know that I had just collapsed, but it felt like I was dying.

‘At the corner of my eye I could see Sophie coming down the stairs. At this point I was going in and out of consciousness and she rushed to my side and began to stroke my hair. She called for Mia and while she did that, my daughter Katie, who has learning difficulties, walked over and saw me on the floor and burst into tears. Sophie calmed Katie down and

took control of the situation. She told Mia to get their dad and put me into the recovery position. My husband flew down the stairs and began to take over. The whole time Sophie was beside me, stroking my hair and talking to me. She was so brave. Sophie is a very busy and talkative little girl who loves to have fun but in this moment she was calm and knew what she was doing.

‘Her Beaver Leader Angela gave her a certificate that said she passed her Emergency Aid Staged Activity Badge stage 1. Angela also presented Sophie with a medal for putting her first aid skills into practice.

‘Sophie’s incredible achievement has inspired her community and she has been nominated by one of the local papers for a Pride of Britain award. We’re hoping she will be given a Scouting gallantry award as well.

‘She is now telling all her school friends that it’s really important to learn their first aid skills. Her Scouting award is making a positive impact among her friends. We are all extremely proud.’

.....

GLEN ROBERTS, 26, SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE INSTRUCTOR

Glen was awarded the Gilt Cross – the highest Gallantry award in Scouting – after helping to orchestrate a search for a fisherman who had fallen overboard while Glen was running a safety course on the Isle of Coll.

Alongside other search and rescue boats, Glen helped to locate the body and complete a boat to air transfer. The following day he continued to run

the safety course at the request of the participants who knew the fisherman.

‘I was awarded the Gilt Cross, which was a bit of a shock – I never went out of my way to meet the criteria; I was just going through my daily routines just like the other guys I met at the awards presentation in Windsor. They were just dealing with the hurdles in their lives and somebody put the time into nominating them.

‘I was never academic at school but I got into outdoor activities and it gave me something to focus on – it inspired me to go to university and get degrees in outdoor education and sport performance. I think if you can inspire young people to take on a new sport and look at something differently you’re having an impact.

‘I’ve been at the centre now for nearly four years; we get a lot of inner-city Glasgow youth who come to us. It’s important we offer these experiences to get the young people into the hills or out onto the water. In the time I’ve been here I’ve seen familiar faces come back time and time again and I can see it is having a positive impact.

‘Being nominated and receiving an award led to an amazing experience at the award ceremony in Windsor. I wouldn’t have had this amazing experience if someone had not nominated me.’

.....

LIZZIE DAVIDSON, 19, CUB LEADER, ENFIELD DISTRICT

While balancing school and Scouting, Lizzie was the first Explorer Scout in her District to be awarded a Queen ►



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pinterest.com/ukscouting

‘As soon as I found out about the Queen’s Scout Award I always wanted to do it’

LIZZIE DAVIDSON, CUB LEADER, ENFIELD

Scout Award in 30 years and the first female Explorer to do so.

‘I’ve been in Scouting since I was 11. As soon as I found out about the Queen’s Scout Award (QSA) I always wanted to do it.

‘For the skills section I learnt how to play the bugle and was a part of the

Scout band. The pressure of going out to perform was scary at first but you get used to it.

‘By the time I learnt how to play the bugle, I was also an instructor helping to teach young people to get them ready to do their QSA or Duke of Edinburgh award.

‘One of the highlights while doing my QSA was finishing the expedition in the Brecon Beacons; some of the hills were like cliff faces but when I got to the top the view was amazing. Finally reaching the reservoir and knowing that was the finish line and that I had done was a fantastic feeling.

‘I also worked on a project with the National Citizen Service (NCS) called the Local Heroes Campaign. The aim was to help the community I live in; it was the year after the London riots and young people were still getting a lot of bad press. The NCS team I was in realised that it was actually damaging morale in our local area, which was quite a sad thing to witness.

‘We pitched the Local Heroes Campaign idea to the local council for a day in the town of Enfield to promote the campaign. We made gift bags filled with t-shirts and wrist-bands and chocolate, and set up a table to display them. People would come over and nominate their local hero and we would go out, find these heroes and present them with the gift bags and certificates to thank them.

‘We went to Scout huts, fire stations and police stations; across Enfield we met people running anti-bullying campaigns and working for charity. We did this to raise awareness of the amazing people in the area.’ ♣



HOW TO APPLY FOR AWARDS

THINKING OF NOMINATING A YOUNG PERSON OR LEADER FOR AN AWARD? HERE IS A GUIDE TO ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOOD SERVICE, GALLANTRY AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARDS, AND HOW TO APPLY FOR THEM

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARDS

THE MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

The medal is awarded for meritorious conduct of an exceptionally high standard and is open to young people under 25 and adult volunteers.

THE CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Awarded to recognise meritorious conduct of a high standard, the Chief Scout's Commendation is open to young people under 25 along with adult volunteers.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

THE CORNWELL SCOUT BADGE

The Cornwell Scout Badge is awarded in respect of pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance to Scouts under 25.

THE BRONZE CROSS

The Bronze Cross is the highest award of the Association for gallantry and is granted for special heroism in the face of extraordinary risk. Open to young people under 25 and adult volunteers.

THE SILVER CROSS

The Silver Cross is awarded for gallantry in circumstances of considerable risk to young people under 25 and adult volunteers.



THE GILT CROSS

The Gilt Cross is awarded for gallantry in circumstances of moderate risk and is open to young people under 25 and adult volunteers.

GOOD SERVICE AWARDS

SILVER WOLF

The Silver Wolf is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout and is only awarded to adult volunteers in recognition 'for service of an exceptional nature'. It is not normally awarded until at least a Silver Acorn had been gained. In practice, this means that it is seldom awarded for less than 30 years' service, although this is not always the case.

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

The Bar to the Silver Acorn can only be awarded to adult volunteers after a Silver Acorn has been gained.

SILVER ACORN

The Silver Acorn recognises long-standing adult volunteers and is not normally awarded until after at least the Award for Merit has been gained. It is seldom awarded for less than 20 years' service.

BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

The Bar to the Award for Merit can only be awarded after an Award for Merit (see below) has been gained.

AWARD FOR MERIT

The Award for Merit is given to adult volunteers for outstanding service of no less than 12 years, but exceptionally after 10 years.

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service is given to adult volunteers with no less than five years' good service.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete an award application, available from scouts.org.uk/shop or scouts.org.uk/awards. The application must be submitted to the County/ Area/ Regional Commissioner.

Visit members.scouts.org.uk/windsor to find out what awards you can nominate young people and adult volunteers for. For further advice, please email awards@scouts.org.uk or call **020 8433 7193/7192**.

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Wake Up Walesby 18~20 Mar
Fireworks Spectacular 4 ~ 6 Nov

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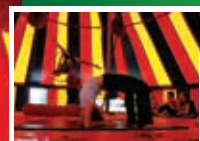
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North Lincs Guides 2010
Gillingham Guides 2009
Beaver Scouts 2009
Warwickshire Scouts 2007
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Happy camping

Planning big nights away on a small budget is not as hard as it sounds. Here are some money-saving tips to help you keep the costs down on your next adventure

Words: Abbie Cavendish | Illustrations: Sam Hubbard

CAMPING ON A BUDGET



WHERE TO GO

You don't need to travel for hundreds of miles to an exotic location in the middle of nowhere to have an amazing outdoors experience – in true Scouting spirit, adventure can be found on your own doorstep.

An adventure in your own backyard: Consider whether or not there's space to camp in the garden behind your hut. It's an especially good choice for younger section members, who may have reservations about being too far away from home. It's also free!

Borrow some space: Think about talking to parents or local businesses – they may be able to provide some

An adventure in your own backyard is a good choice for young members who may have reservations about being far from home

space for you and your Scouts to use as a temporary campsite. Depending on where you're based and how many Scouts you're planning to take, you may be lucky and find yourselves the perfect field.

Greenfields: For something a little further afield, you could try a Greenfield site with no camping or activity fees.

Scale it down: Two nights under canvas for all is better than four nights for those who can afford it, so think about what's achievable and keep your plans realistic.

Plan ahead: Wherever you decide to go, try and give parents as much warning as possible when it comes to paying for camp. You could run a presentation at the start of September each year about the previous year's costs, or think about allowing parents to pay for the camps they can afford in the preceding year.

HOW TO GET THERE

Once you've decided what kind of adventure you want to go on, you'll need to figure out how to get there. Thankfully, there are lots of ways to save some pennies.

Get help: Try and get the parents of your young people involved. By organising a local camp, parents can also drop the young people off and reduce costs.

Share the load: Consider setting up a car-share system (you can include yourselves!) so that parents don't have to do more than one drop-off or pick-up. If you're going to be travelling a little bit further, it's well worth the extra planning.

Choose wisely: Where possible, choose a site on which you can hold the activities you're planning to run, rather than having to find another location. You might need to hunt harder for the additional space you'll need, but it should help keep costs low and is more convenient.

Don't rule out public transport: The use of public transport can be an adventure in itself, so you could base yourselves on a local bus or train route and get your Scouts to lead the way in terms of buying tickets and planning a route. Our partner National Express offers discounted fares for members and a private hire option for Groups. Visit scouts.org.uk/nationalexpress.

Check your access: It's worth making a visit to the site beforehand in order to check for vehicle access. If you're planning to use multiple cars to get on and off the site, it's worth spending a little bit more to get somewhere with easy access.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE THERE
Apart from eating (which we'll get to), self-led activities are the best way to keep costs to a minimum, so here are some ideas for taking the initiative...



It might be worth splashing out on one activity that will really suit your Scouts if you can keep the rest as cheap as possible

Ask around: Put the word out to your District to get in touch with other volunteers who might be willing to come along to your camp and offer up their skills for the day. A local bushcraft expert or outdoors adventurer would come in very handy.

Get others involved: Have you ever considered doing a shout-out for any other local Groups in the area at the same time? You'll be able to maximise the spaces available (especially for activities that can only be done in multiples of 12, for example) and you can halve the cost at the same time.

Cover the classics: Pioneering, hillwalking and hiking are all good examples of cheap activities, which

could cater well for your Scouts. At the same time, remember to stick to a balanced programme while you're away. It might be worth splashing out on one activity that will really suit your Scouts if you can keep other activities as cheap as possible.

Look for bargains: Don't be afraid to contact local businesses for discounts. Be upfront and polite and see what they offer; lots of leaders have reported success in this way!

Bring your own: Make sure you plan in advance and get the Scouts to provide their own supplies for activities. Collecting water bottles to make rockets or cardboard boxes to build shelters might take a bit of time but that extra effort upfront can provide a lot of fun in the long run.

WHAT TO EAT

It wouldn't be a memorable camp without plenty to eat, but luckily there's a few ways to stop your shopping bill becoming excessive.

Six cooks are better than one: As always, try and get parents on board. If every parent (with the help of their children) brought a cake with them, it will provide enough tasty treats to cover snack times and puddings over the course of a weekend.

Foodie activities: Consider running backwoods cooking as an activity; it's a cheap and time-consuming activity that will keep everyone full up too. If you have any budding chefs at camp, let them take charge of a whole meal.

Be organised: At the end of camp, go back to your original food list and write down what you actually used, what you ran out of and what was left



over. In no time at all, you'll have a comprehensive list of what to buy and exactly how much of it you'll need for next time.

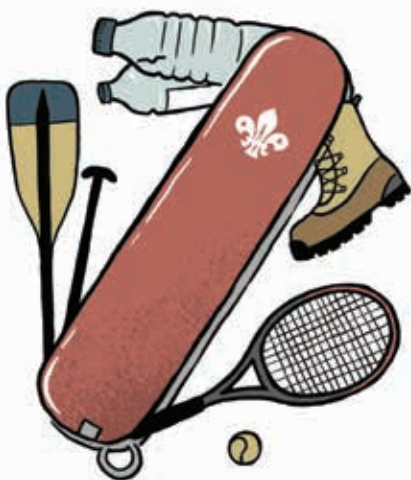
Two steps ahead: Start buying throughout the year when you see offers on non-perishable items. You'll get to know which supermarkets do the best deals on which foods and start saving money.

YouShaped catering: Think about letting your young people run their own tuck shop. It will give them a project to get stuck into and letting them bring money for their own snacks on camp might help them stave off those hunger pangs for a little longer!

Don't forget to share your tips on our Facebook and Twitter pages. ♣

MORE ADVICE

Check out the Scout Activity Centre resources for tips on planning a residential trip: tinyurl.com/ptvxa9y. Alternatively, you can find out more about nights away and download a parent form at: members.scouts.org.uk/nightsaway.





Access all areas

When four Norfolk Scouts decided to test the wheelchair accessibility of Lake District walking routes for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, we joined them to document their challenge

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Jo Denison



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

HAULING YOURSELF UP hills, clambering over rocks and sweating under a sticky layer of waterproofs may not be everyone's favourite way to spend the weekend. Yet there are those of us who see so much more to Duke of Edinburgh expeditions than the questionable ration packs of food and sleeping in damp tents when there's a perfectly good B&B down the road. It's the challenge; the chance to push yourself, to leave your gadgets at home and go forth into the wilderness with nothing but the boots on your feet and a bag on your back (albeit a very large one stuffed with everything bar the kitchen sink).

Reminiscing about my own DofE Bronze expedition, it felt like it went on forever. My feet ached, my back was wet with sweat from generous over-packing and I longed for a bath and a duvet. At the same time I was buzzing with excitement, determined to complete the walk and meet other like-minded people my age. We were all well equipped with proper walking boots, waterproofs and compasses, despite spending the majority of our first day walking along a canal towpath that really wasn't hard to navigate. Ultimately it was about giving it your all, and that's exactly what the Norfolk Scouts did when I joined them on their Silver expedition.

Their journey started in Norfolk where they began the six-hour drive up to Keswick in the Lake District; three challenging days lay ahead.

Tackling their toughest challenge first, the route for day one followed the Old Coach Road, well known as a difficult route due to its steep and exposed nature. Day two followed a National Trail into Keswick and the final day

weaved its way towards a disused railway track, which the team then followed all the way to Threlkeld.

When the Norfolk group planned their expedition in and around Keswick they didn't just challenge themselves with a dramatic mountain walk or decide to trek five times as far as usual. What they did was far more impressive: they embarked on a three-day adventure to discover just how accessible walking routes are for wheelchair users in the Lake District, and they did it with Group member, Explorer Scout and wheelchair user, Zoe. At first glance of the route they had chosen, it didn't look easy.

Zoe lives with a range of conditions, some of which haven't been fully identified by doctors. With the help of her sticks she can walk a short distance but the wheelchair gives her the freedom of mobility. She tires after walking just a few steps and struggles with a particularly limited diet, though you'd never know it from the way she chatters animatedly and jokes around with the lads.

'It's not that I don't trust you, it's just that I'd rather walk this bit,' quips Zoe as the group approaches a narrow ledge with a gushing river beneath. She's always determined to prove that she can take on the adventure; it's when she becomes quiet and hunched up after she has used her arms to push herself up a set of stone steps that you remember just how exhausting this is for her. Every bump in the road shoots straight up her spine.

Initially knowing little about Zoe's condition, it was inspiring to see how great an effort she put into her DofE expedition. The three lads also

completing the expedition – Gulliver, Adam and Ed – are in many ways her other crutches. The gates are as much a challenge for them as they are for Zoe; each gate or stile that requires Zoe to make her way over on crutches means that the lads need to lift and manoeuvre the wheelchair over it between them.

They have taken on this enormous challenge to look out for Zoe when she's feeling unwell, to help out when there's a tough incline and to drag the chair out of the mud when it has been raining, which, being in the North of England, it inevitably has.

So why have they all decided to do this? You may expect an answer elaborating on how the four are close friends, determined to complete this together, squelching through the mud through thick and thin. But actually, the four didn't even know each other before they were grouped together. They are still learning about each other's needs and personalities and it's endearing to see how quickly they relax into each other's company.

'Not only have you got to be carrying the pack and walking, sometimes you've got to help push and carry the wheelchair,' Ed explains. Though it follows the DofE requirements, this certainly isn't a standard expedition. This unique experience has provided everyone with a new challenge. 'I've done lots of walks up and down mountains on family holidays but this is totally different,' Ed says, while taking a breather by a nearby river.

Still, taking on a challenge of this nature in some of England's finest countryside does have its benefits. The physical exertion of their challenge ►



‘I’ve done lots of walks up and down mountains on family holidays but this is totally different’

NORFOLK SCOUT ED





This page: Negotiating grassy hills, awkward gates, muddy paths and punctures was all part of the DofE expedition for the Norfolk Scouts. Facing page: The Scouts' efforts were rewarded with stunning Lakeland views.



is punctuated with rests on nearby boulders and unearthened tree roots, allowing the group to soak up the striking Lakeland vistas. In contrast to the everyday fluorescent glare of computer screens and whitewashed walls I'm used to, the views of rich emerald foliage, vast shimmering lakes and patches of rusty brown earth carpeting the mountains are a tonic. All around us are fields dotted with sheep or cows curious to know what we're doing on their turf.

It isn't all easy passage though; the imposing mountains certainly mimic the journey's high peaks and sudden pitfalls. Towards the end of day two,

Zoe's wheelchair gets a puncture, causing the weight of the chair to slightly bend the structure of the rim. Gulliver and Ed step in to assess how they can repair the damage. 'Can you pass me that metal spoon?' Gulliver asks, deciding to use it as a lever to remove the tyre from the rim.

They're typically and impressively inventive with the tools that they have and after finding the puncture using a pot and a small amount of water they realise that there's not much else they can do, except to split up to find the closest shop selling a puncture repair kit. In the meantime the others decide on a plan B, just in

case this happens again. Which it does – an hour later.

'I can't believe this has happened now and not yesterday,' remarks Zoe. 'The path yesterday was so much worse than this.'

When we first began the expedition, I wondered, apart from Zoe's challenge with wheelchair access, what each individual's personal challenge would be over the three days. There are often bouts of homesickness, trivial personality clashes and cooking disasters, but apart from Ed's unappetising omelette resembling a small pile of dog vomit (his words) the



group's challenges were not frivolous and were tackled together.

To explore such a stunning area and help others visiting in a wheelchair was enough to inspire the four to persevere through the tough times and bask in the satisfaction of having completed their challenge.

It seems I had forgotten how much DofE bonds you; your challenges become everyone else's and theirs yours. When Gulliver's tent broke, it was Adam who offered him a place to sleep. When the lads were low on gas for cooking, it was Zoe who provided the fuel. When Zoe's wheelchair got a

puncture, it was Gulliver and Ed who trekked to find a repair kit.

Expeditions like these provide everyone involved with a chance to push themselves and form new bonds. Even those anticipating an easy ride will take on their group's challenges and experiences. It doesn't matter if it's carrying a wheelchair or borrowing some gas, I witnessed first-hand how these expeditions create bonds and challenge everyone involved. The DofE Programme is great because it works alongside Scouting and has links to the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and the Queen Scout's Award. Each Group

can find their own angle for the expedition and work towards helping others or the environment.

When the group finally reaches their destination I joke with Ed: 'I bet you're looking forward to some decent food? No more vomit omelette or lumpy rehydrated porridge?' Expecting him to reply by saying that he was dreaming about roast dinners or takeaways, I was surprised by his response: 'Actually, I do have a pack of porridge left. I may have that for breakfast tomorrow!'

Clearly somebody enjoyed this even more than they were letting on... ♣

OVER TO YOU



HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

INTERESTED IN GETTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP INVOLVED? HERE ARE OUR TOP TIPS FOR GETTING THEM STARTED

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER

Every young person needs to register with the scheme before they embark on their programme. This can be done via the County DofE Adviser or Country Office of your area. Once registered, they can start planning their programme.

PLANNING IS EVERYTHING

Make sure you take time to plan all aspects of the adventure with your Group, whether it's selecting the kind of activities they would like to do or helping them to prepare physically, mentally or practically for those exciting expeditions ahead.

DOUBLE UP

Your young people are probably already doing some activities that could count towards their Award. Discuss which of their hobbies could count and how they can progress in them. Setting new goals is good too.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Once enrolled, your young people will receive an eDofE account and a Welcome Pack. Encourage them to keep their details up to date as this is where they submit their evidence and Award once it is completed.

THERE REALLY IS NO SUCH THING AS A SILLY QUESTION

It's always better to ask and find out the right answer than to make

assumptions and get it wrong.

The DofE team are more than happy to help and you can contact them at dofe@scouts.org.uk.

NEXT STEPS

There is loads of support available to help your young people achieve their ambitions through the DofE programmes. Check out the DofE pages at scouts.org.uk/dofe and our DofE Leader Support Pack. Every County in England has a DofE Adviser who can provide localised support. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland support is available from your Country Office. The Scout Association provides a range of training courses for adults, so if you'd like some training to get you started or to help you reach the next level with your Group then head over to tinyurl.com/o645v7c.

TRY SOMETHING NEW...

Scout Activity Centres now boast eight new Tented Villages – this equals 384 more bed spaces!

Comprising four metre canvas bell tents for young people and three metre canvas bell tents for adults – complete with comfortable mattresses, electric lanterns and storage boxes. There is also a group tent with tables, benches and lighting. Each Tented Village has space for 40 young people and four adults in ten bell tents.

Contact us for more information scouts.org.uk/sac

Backing Bristol

By helping to develop Scouting in Bristol communities that need it most, the Pears Project is showing how we can give everyone the opportunity to join the adventure, explains volunteer Jess Connett

Words and pictures: Jess Connett

IT'S EARLY EVENING in September on the streets of Lockleaze in the northern suburbs of Bristol. The newly-opened play park in the square is full of kids in school uniform, playing out in the last bit of the evening sun. A bus rattles past, making the 20-minute journey into the city centre, and connecting this community with other postcodes that can, so often, feel very far away.

Inside the shiny new community centre on the edge of the square, at plastic-topped tables, sits a group of volunteers in red and black neckerchiefs, laughing and chatting over cups of milky tea. Unopened programme books are scattered over the tables, their edges pristine.

As with most Scout Groups up and down the country, the volunteers are back after the long summer holiday for a planning meeting to decide on the badges, trips and events of the coming term. Except, this is no ordinary group of volunteers. Until nine months ago, none of this team had ever been involved with Scouting...

'I'm doing it because my son really wanted to come to Beavers,' Tracey, one of the volunteers, tells me. Her son, Oliver, is now in Cubs, and she's followed him, helping once a week with running activities. 'I'd never done anything like this before. I can't say the whole thing has been easy, but I'm keeping my head above the water. I want this to work.'

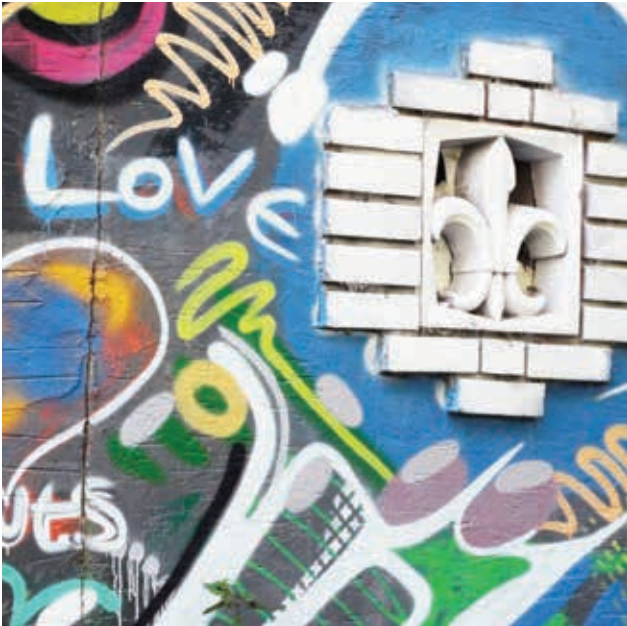
Twelve months ago, there was no Scouting provision in this area. The old Group closed after running for over 50 years, having found themselves on the wrong side of the motorway, which slices the city in two. Cut off from their District, the running of the Group was left to a single family. Without the support they needed, they closed one Christmas, leaving the spiders to spin webs between the rafters in the old Scout HQ. Scouting became referenced only in the past tense, when dusty Cub uniforms briefly saw the light of day during wardrobe clear outs.

But not everyone forgot about this community and its population of young people in need of opportunities.

The District earmarked the area for a boost, and it arrived in the form of a team of six bright-eyed interns from the Scout Association's Regional Development Service: the Pears Project team. From Georgie, who can't name a single member of her family who isn't involved in Scouting, to Chris, an Explorer leader when he's not studying for his Master's, this team had the detailed local knowledge that they really needed to connect with the communities in which they work.

The project is a pilot, funded by the Pears Foundation – a family-run charity that supports projects that promote experimental learning and citizenship. The overall aim of the Pears Project is to increase the number of young people who have access to Scouting – to give everyone a chance to join the adventure. From the Bristol Channel in the west to Bath in the east, the team has been hard at work in some of the most deprived urban areas in the south-west, building up Scouting from a grassroots level.

The project has just reached its first ►



year milestone: 10 projects have been completed, ranging from reinvigorating floundering inner-city Groups, to opening new sections to relieve enormous waiting lists, and setting up brand new Groups in areas with zero provision. An estimated 600 new youth members have joined Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, along with over 80 new volunteers.

One of the project's major successes has been in Lockleaze, a place with rare and enduring community spirit in the face of hard times. Opportunities for young people here are limited – the streets of the old estates are full of bored kids kicking footballs against concrete kerbs.

Many schemes have started up here and then closed down again after they lost their funding. But when the community gets behind a project – like the improvements made to the community centre garden by a group of green-fingered volunteers – they are a real force for good.

'I've lived here for about five years now, and in that time the area has improved a lot,' Tracey, the Cub Leader, tells me. 'There are lots of people trying to set things up, make things happen. You just have to know where to look for it.'

In summer 2014, the newly formed Pears Project team bowled into Lockleaze, turning up at the local primary schools with brightly coloured neckers and a pop-up tent, talking about adventure and toasting marshmallows on fires. At an open invitation event – where young people could make juggling balls, take part in welly wanging, design their own necker and generally announce



their interest in Scouting – over one hundred people marched through the door of the community centre.

The response was overwhelmingly positive – the messages of achievement and challenge through Scouting were understood and appreciated right from the start.

'I wanted my son to join Beavers because it gives him opportunities he wouldn't normally get,' says Tracey. 'Kids are so interested in playing games inside and sitting on their computers all day. Scouts is a way to get them outside, doing new things.'

As the parents became more and more invested in the process of raising the new Scout Group from the ashes of the old, brilliant individuals with no previous experience of Scouting rose to the challenge of becoming permanent leaders.

Fast-forward to today, and the Group is thriving: the volunteers have come on leaps and bounds after having their Getting Started training, and almost 50 young people are accessing Scouting every week in the area. To celebrate the success of the project, the Pears Foundation organised an overnight camp at the local Scout

Activity Centre at Woodhouse Park. 'It was the best bit of the experience so far,' Tracey tells me. 'It was tiring but it was such good fun.'

For almost all of the Cubs and Scouts who attended – and the majority of the new leaders – this was a brand new experience. From trying adventurous activities like tomahawk throwing and climbing, to building fires and cooking twists, the experience was brilliant for all involved. For Munya, a Cub, the best part of the camp was sleeping out under canvas for the first time. For his leader Tracey, it was simply being out of the city.

'Munya loved camp,' she says. 'He loved being kept busy and learning new things all the time. He was always in and out of the woods, playing with his friends.'

For the leaders especially, the experience of being at camp bonded them as a team and helped them to see just how valuable the experience of Scouting is to young people.

In year two, the Pears Project will venture into Bath and rural South Gloucestershire and will tackle some challenging inner-city projects, like in Knowle West – one of the most deprived wards in the country.

But the challenges the team has faced in year one leaves them well equipped to deal with all that Scouting can throw at them. This small pilot project has already brought Scouting to hundreds of new young people and adults in Bristol: if it were rolled-out nationwide, perhaps it has the potential to bring Scouting to many thousands more. ♣



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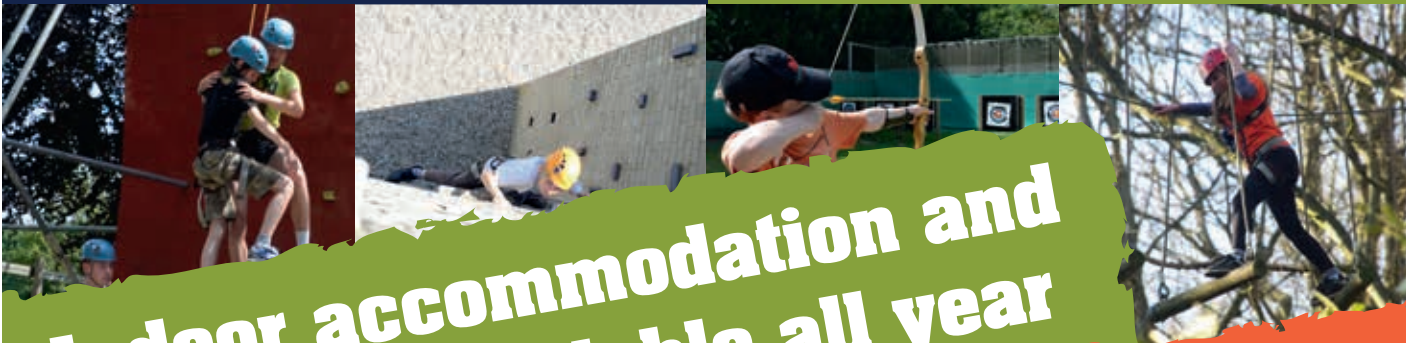
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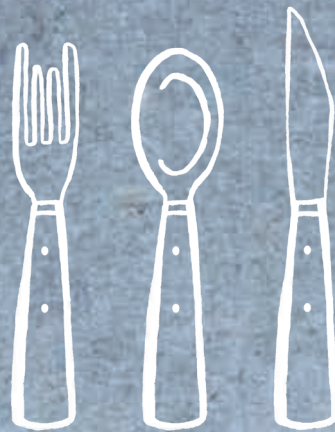
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Winter Warmers

Cold, crisp winter days are the best time to cook comfort food outdoors. Here are just a few delicious recipes to put on your menu

Words: Laura Sagar | Pictures: Jo Denison | Styling: Ann Reynolds



CAMPFIRE COOKING



GORGONZOLA AND WALNUT RISOTTO

‘A rich, creamy risotto with a nutty crunch.’

SERVES 4

TIME 1 hour

INGREDIENTS

600ml vegetable stock
2 tbsp butter
3 tbsp olive oil
1 white onion, diced
2 cloves of garlic, finely sliced
1/4 stick of celery, finely chopped
200g arborio rice
150ml grape juice with a dash of vinegar
100g fresh spinach leaves
200g Gorgonzola cheese
50g grated Parmesan cheese
Sea salt and black pepper
Handful of crushed walnuts

INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat the vegetable stock in a pan and have a ladle nearby.
- Heat 1 tbsp of butter and 2 tbsp of olive oil in a large pan.
- Add the onion, garlic and celery to the butter and oil. Cook for about 15 minutes. Make sure they don't turn brown. Keep the pan on the edge of the fire so it's not too hot.
- Add the rice and cook for a couple of minutes.
- Pour in the juice and put the pan in the hottest part of the campfire. Cook until most of the liquid reduces.
- Add a ladle of stock and stir until it reduces again. Continue doing this until you run out of stock and your rice is cooked. This will take around 15 minutes. Don't worry if it looks a little runny, it will thicken as it cools.
- Remove the risotto from the heat.
- Stir in the spinach, remaining butter and Gorgonzola.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Sprinkle some walnuts and Parmesan cheese on top, drizzle over some oil and serve immediately.

GOLDEN POTATO CAKES WITH SMOKY BUTTER BEANS

‘So simple and so delicious, the smoky butterbeans totally transform this classic into a new favourite.’

SERVES 4

TIME 30 minutes

INGREDIENTS

400g–500g potatoes peeled and diced
150ml milk
50g–70g butter
Sea salt and black pepper
150g self-raising flour
2x 400g tin of butter beans in water
2x 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
2 cloves of garlic, finely sliced
1 tbsp of olive oil
1 vegetable stock cube
1 tsp paprika
Sea salt and black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

- Boil some water in a saucepan.
- Add the potatoes and cook until soft.
- Drain the potatoes and mash.
- Season the mash and add flour to create a stiff mixture.
- Divide the mixture into four. Round each portion into a ball and then flatten to form a pattie.
- Place the potato cakes onto a double layer of tin foil and place them on the edge of the campfire.
- Cook for 15–20 minutes, turning halfway through, until they are golden brown.
- While the potato cakes are cooking use a colander to drain the butter beans and chopped tomatoes.
- Lightly fry the garlic in oil for 30 seconds. Now add the butterbeans and tomatoes and stir.
- While the beans and tomatoes are warming, dissolve the stock cube into some boiling water.
- After a couple of minutes add the stock and the paprika to the beans.
- Simmer for around 10 minutes until the sauce thickens.
- Plate up and serve.

Best served immediately to satisfy rumbling stomachs. ►

TRIPLE CHEESE MAC WITH CRISPY PANCETTA

‘A hearty bowlful of gooey macaroni cheese packed with salty pancetta is such a treat after a day hiking.’

SERVES 4–6

TIME 35–40 minutes

INGREDIENTS

Sea salt and black pepper
500g macaroni
2 tbsp olive oil
100g cubed pancetta
2 cloves of garlic finely sliced
100g mascarpone cheese
150g grated Cheddar cheese
2 handfuls of breadcrumbs
1 handful of fresh thyme
Small block of Parmesan cheese
1/4 nutmeg

INSTRUCTIONS

- Boil some water in a saucepan over your fire and add a pinch of salt.
- Add the macaroni and boil until slightly undercooked.
- Drain the macaroni but keep some of the cooking water aside for later.
- Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the pancetta for 2–3 minutes until it starts to get crispy. Put a few pieces to one side to top your finished dish.
- Add the garlic to the pan and fry for a further minute.
- Add the cooked pasta, 2 tablespoons of the pasta’s cooking water and the mascarpone cheese. Gently stir.
- Once the mascarpone cheese has melted to become a sauce, stir in the Cheddar.
- While the Cheddar is melting, add some oil to a pan and fry the breadcrumbs and thyme.
- Season the macaroni cheese.
- Serve the macaroni cheese out into dishes, grate Parmesan and nutmeg over the top and sprinkle over the herby breadcrumbs and a few pieces of pancetta.

Best served with a wedge of bread to mop up the sauce.

BANOFFEE CAMP TOASTIES

‘These hot, sugary toasties with a creamy caramel and fresh banana filling are the perfect camp treat.’

SERVES 6

TIME 15–20 minutes

INGREDIENTS

120g light brown sugar
120g butter
100ml cream
2 eggs
200g plain flour
1 loaf of brioche, sliced
1 banana, sliced
Vegetable oil for cooking
Sugar to serve

INSTRUCTIONS

For the caramel sauce:

- Add the sugar and butter to a saucepan and gently heat.
- Stir until the sugar has dissolved. Then stir in the cream.
- Place the saucepan in the middle of the fire to allow the sauce to bubble for a couple of minutes until golden.
- Leave to cool slightly.

For the toasties:

- Whisk the eggs and flour with some water until you get the thickness of double cream. This is your batter.
- Create sandwiches using the brioche, caramel sauce and banana.
- Cut them in half and pinch the edges to seal.
- Dip them in the batter mixture.
- Heat some oil in a pan and fry your toastie on all sides until golden.
- Immediately roll in sugar, then eat.

Best eaten before anyone pinches them. ♣

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

All of these recipes, along with an extra recipe for smoking sweet cobs are available to download from scouts.org.uk/magazine. You can also find more campfire cooking inspiration on our blog at scouts.org.uk/news. Please don’t forget to share your favourite recipes on Facebook or Twitter.



SCOUTING SITES AND DAYS OUT

Every Scout loves a fun day away from HQ, so we're bringing you some extra info in our listings section to help you choose the best destination for your Group



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BUILD A LEGO ROCKET CAR

Put your engineering and science skills to the test with this explosive experiment

SUITABLE FOR CUBS

1 Divide your young people into groups of four. Appoint a leader for each group and give the leader a piece of paper and a pencil.

2 Ask each team to design a racing car, which they will build out of LEGO. The car must be lightweight, so that it's fast, yet strong enough to hold an empty tacky glue bottle. For your driver, you could order your own Scout minifig from minifigs.me.

3 When the designs are complete, each team can choose the LEGO pieces they think they'll need for their cars.

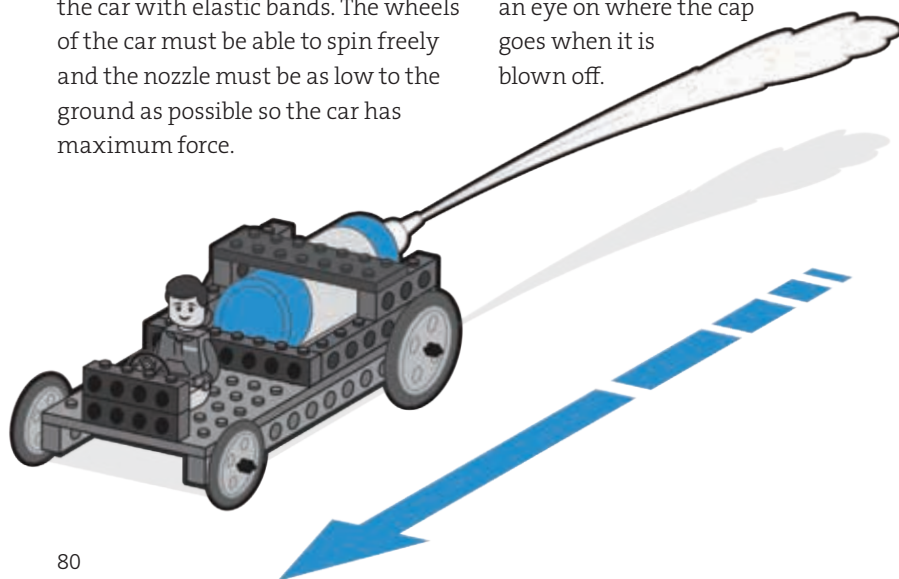
4 The car assembly begins! Attach a clean and empty glue bottle to the car with elastic bands. The wheels of the car must be able to spin freely and the nozzle must be as low to the ground as possible so the car has maximum force.

6 Get the Cubs to fill the glue bottle so it is two-thirds full with water. Drop in two Alka Seltzers; you may need to cut them in half to fit them into the bottle. Quickly screw on the lid and place the car on the ground.

7 Watch as the pressure builds and forces the cap off the bottle, propelling the LEGO cars forward.

8 Measure the distance each team's LEGO car travels. You could even film them and play back the best launches.

9 Have plenty of towels handy, as water will spray out of each rocket. And it's a good idea to keep an eye on where the cap goes when it is blown off.



TIME NEEDED

30 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- LEGO – make sure there are plenty of wheels
- Clean and empty tacky glue bottles with removable caps
- Elastic bands
- Paper and pencils
- Alka Seltzers

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Cub My Skills
Challenge Award



Cub My Adventure
Challenge Award



Cub Artist
Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

Cubs will understand how to design and build a prototype and how a vehicle is powered by a chemical reaction. They'll learn that the way they build their cars affects the speed at which it travels.

OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Do the same activity but try different elements to power the vehicle, for example, Mentos and Diet Cola.

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SWEDISH FIRE TORCH

Build a neat, long-lasting fire that is ideal for icy conditions and small spaces

SUITABLE FOR SCOUTS, EXPLORERS AND NETWORK

1 Gather the supplies for the Swedish fire torch. You will need tinder: dry grass, some leaves and bark; and some kindling: wood that has been split into short batons. You will also need a firelighter.

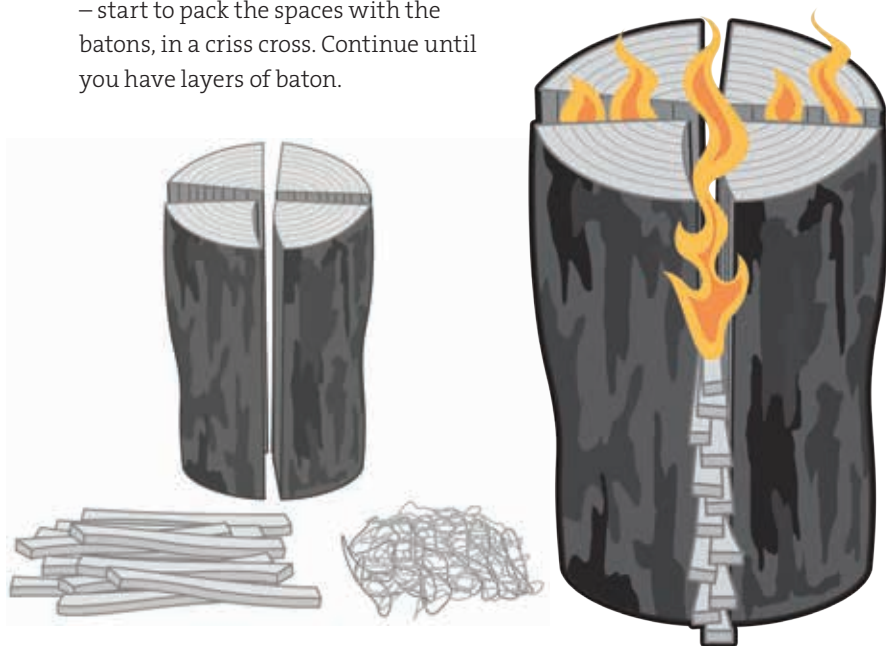
2 The main base for the fire is a single log that has been split into four quarters with an axe. You could do this before the meeting so that it is ready-cut before the Explorers arrive or let the older Explorers chop the log.

3 With the log standing on its end and with a gap between each of the four quarters – like pie pieces – start to pack the spaces with the batons, in a criss cross. Continue until you have layers of baton.

4 Pack the tinder on top of the batons, packing out the criss cross cavity between the log quarters. Using the firelighter, light the tinder.

5 This kind of fire burns well because the air is able to circulate through the gaps, and once the tinder is burnt, the heat burns down to the kindling, which burns the main log.

6 If the log has a flattish top then you can place a pan on top and use it to cook. This fire is especially effective in the snow – hence its use in Sweden and Canada, where it is known as a ‘Canadian candle’.



TIME NEEDED

30 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Dry grass
- Leaves
- Bark
- Wood
- Log
- Firelighter
- Axe

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Explorer
Survival Skills



Scout Outdoor
Challenge

OUTCOMES

This fire is self-feeding so it will need little attention. Explorers will try out a different way of building a fire and will be able to see the effects this method has on the end result, ie, the Swedish fire torch is built to burn well and it doesn't take up too much space. As the fire burns, the breeze is able to get through the gaps on the sides of the main log so little tending is needed.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ask the Explorers what other elements and terrain can be challenging when building a fire and how would the Group get round these obstacles? Which other cultures have built specific fires that work well in their environments?

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* Scout Members are requested to present Scout Identity Card upon check-in.

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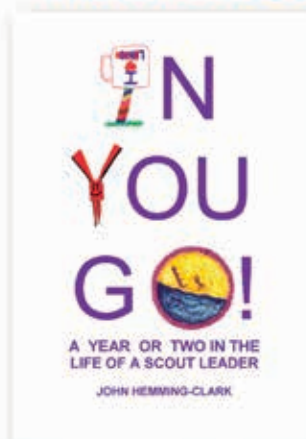
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FIND A 'TWIN' GROUP ABROAD

Discover the life and different culture of Scouts in other countries

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 Go to members.scouts.org.uk/intlinks and print off the list of Scout Groups across the world that would like to link up with Groups in other countries.

2 Ask your young people what they think the benefits are of being twinned with a Scout Group in another country. Talk about the differences between other cultures and why it is good to respect them.

3 Present the list to your young people; the list includes Groups from Australia and Iceland to Morocco and Japan and many others. To decide which country to twin with, put it to a vote.

4 Ask your Group to suggest things they'd like to find out about their twin Group. This could include asking questions about their favourite sport, food, pets, books, what they like doing etc.

5 Then ask your Group to think about the kinds of things they want to tell the twin Group about themselves and their lives in the UK.

6 Decide how they are going to get in touch, by letter, email, or social media (remember, children have to be age 13 and over to get a Facebook account).

7 The first communication could be in the form of a Group letter or individual notes from each member.

8 Take photographs of the Group and of the Scout meeting place to include with the letter/email. Ask the Group what other pictures they think their 'twins' would like to see.

TIME NEEDED

01 hour

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver International Activity Badge



Cub International Activity Badge



Explorer International Activity Badge



Digital Citizen Staged Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

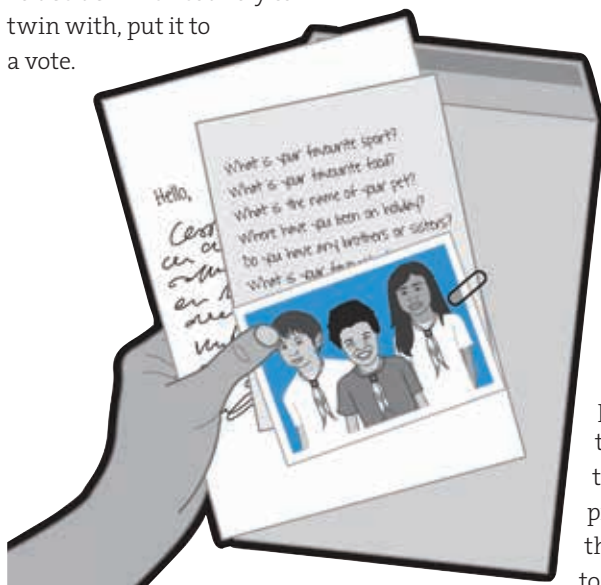
Linking with Groups in another country will give your Group an understanding of cultural differences and is a fun way to learn about another country. They'll make new friends and there may be the opportunity for exchange visits.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Put together a cultural capsule of items that reflect your section's life in the UK. Things to include could be a copy of their school timetable, a hand-drawn flag, a picture of their favourite football players and so on. Ask the Group if they have visited other countries and get them to talk about their experiences. Find out what activity badges the international Group has recently gained. If your section has the same badges, tell the twin Group what they did to get them.

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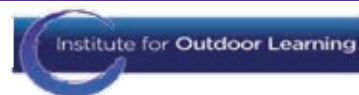
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WHERE'S THE TREASURE?

Develop your orienteering skills by burying loot for your section to find

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 There are some preparations you need to do in advance of this activity. Decide where to hide items and then place them around the area. Write a set of instructions so teams can find each item. For example, the instructions should read something like this: go 200 degrees for six steps then 100 degrees for six steps and 150 degrees for six steps. Print off one set of instructions per team.

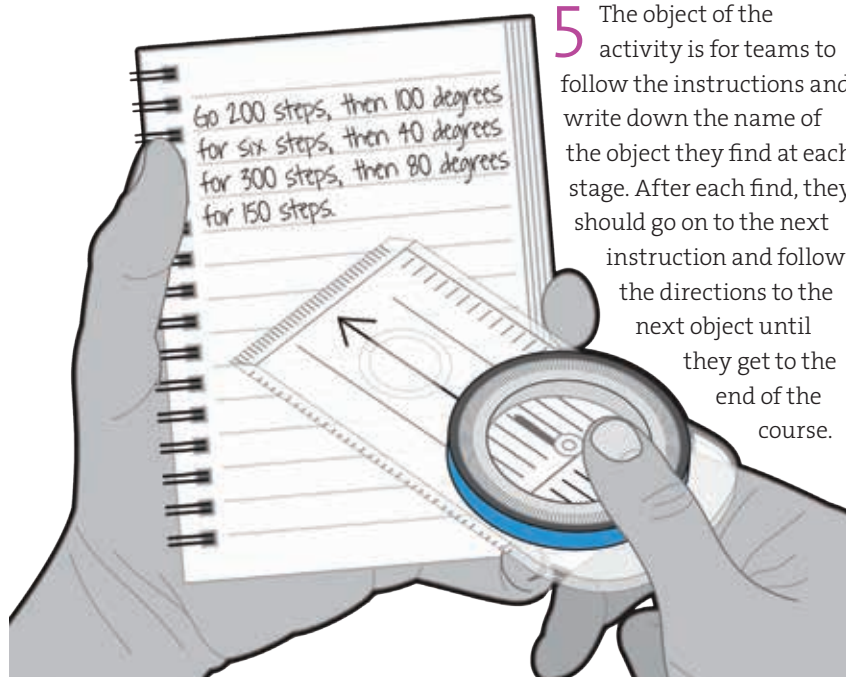
2 At the meeting ask your young people to form teams of two or four people. Give one compass to each

team. Teams should decide among themselves who should hold the compass and lead the team.

3 This exercise can be carried out inside or outdoors, depending on the weather. It would be fun if it were held in a field or wood, but equally it can be held in a room.

4 Give each team a set of instructions. Encourage them to plan a strategy and get ready to time them.

5 The object of the activity is for teams to follow the instructions and write down the name of the object they find at each stage. After each find, they should go on to the next instruction and follow the directions to the next object until they get to the end of the course.



TIME NEEDED

40 minutes

**THIS ACTIVITY
LINKS WITH THE
FOLLOWING BADGES**



Beaver, Cub and Scout My Adventure
Challenge Award



Scout Orienteer Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

Navigation skills will be sharpened, including the ability to follow instructions, and use a compass. The young people will work in teams and will have to communicate well. The best team correctly lists the names of the most treasures in the quickest time.

OTHER SECTIONS

If your section doesn't have the navigational skills to carry out the orienteering treasure hunt try the string course, which is more suitable for younger children who are just starting to learn these skills. Set coloured ribbon or string out over a course, using items to mark out places along the string. Prepare a map, which follows the same layout as the string course, with circles on the map to indicate where the items are. The Cubs use the map and navigate the string course to find the markers.

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2.5 BILLION REASONS TO TWIN YOUR SCOUT LOO

'My children are healthier and able to go to school because we have a toilet.'

Father of four Bishwo Raj Gurung



2.5 billion people don't have a loo.

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Getting to **KNOW** YOU.

FILL OUT this fun questionnaire AND HAND IT BACK to your LEADER, who will GIVE YOU A SHEET filled in by someone else to read out. See if anyone can guess WHO YOU'RE READING ABOUT!

DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AS A... SUPERHERO!

ADD A HEAD!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

do you have any pets?

wasn't me!

The coolest thing about you is:

DESIGN YOUR OWN T-SHIRT with a slogan that describes you.

3 WORDS that describe YOU:

1. 2. 3.

nice white t-shirt

TROUSERS!

How would you change the WORLD?

YOU ARE HOW

Illustration: Sarah Coleman



NIGHT ACTIVITIES

The evenings are drawing in, so here's a selection of fun activities to enjoy after the sun has gone down

SHINY SHAPE GAME

TIME NEEDED:

15–30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Give your young people cardboard and marker pens and ask them to draw 30 squares, 20 triangles, 10 circles and five stars. Ask them to cut out the shapes and cover them in silver foil. Hide the shapes around your meeting place. With torches the Group can go hunting for the shapes, earning different points for each. Points can be traded for fruit.

PYRAMID ATTACK

TIME NEEDED:

5–15 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Split your young people into two

teams and get each to build a pyramid from three sticks.

The teams and their pyramids must be 200 metres apart. Mark out each pyramid with a torch. At the signal, each team must guard their pyramid and attack the other team's pyramid, attempting to pull it to the ground. Each successful attack earns a point.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BOWLING

TIME NEEDED:

10–30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR: All

Get six water bottles and six glow sticks. Remove the labels from the bottles and ask some of the section to fill them and some to activate the glow sticks by bending them. Drop one glow stick in each bottle. Clear an area inside or outside to create a bowling alley. Set up the pins with

three at the back, two in the middle and one in the front. Switch off the lights to see the pins glow – and play!

PIRATE TREASURE

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

SUITABLE FOR: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Split the Group into two teams and position them approximately 200 metres apart. For each team, mark out an area of 10 metres by 10 metres with torches at each corner. Place an item of treasure, such as a glow stick in a bottle or a bike light in the middle of each area. Each team then has to guard their own treasure while releasing enough people to attempt to steal the other team's treasure.

WANT MORE? Go online to scouts.org.uk/magazine to download our extended list of night activities!

Have you got your official Christmas badges?



Support our Christmas appeal by donating* to our Development Grants Fund (DGF) to receive our Christmas Badge and Scout Christmas cards

The DGF provides vital support for young people with challenges such as learning difficulties, physical disabilities or those who face financial hardship.

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For more information see page 41 of MAKE.DO.SHARE, or visit scouts.org.uk/christmas. *Minimum donation £1 per badge/ £3 per pack of 6 cards or £5 for two packs.

'You will find others on the same path as yourselves, possibly not so well equipped; give them a helping hand as you go.'

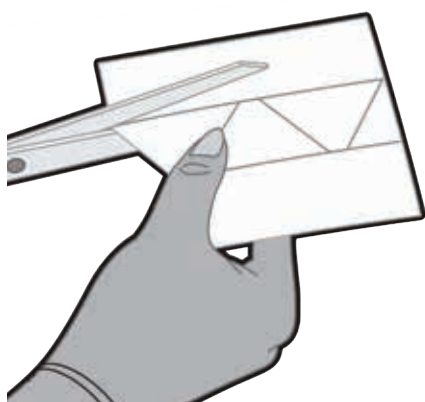
Robert Baden-Powell



3D HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR

Create a revolving 3D fleur-de-lis using some clear plastic and a mobile phone

SUITABLE FOR SCOUTS, EXPLORERS AND NETWORK



sheets of see-through plastic. Cut around the paper pieces so you have four identical triangular shapes.

4 Cellotape the four pieces together to form an inverted prism, with the large hole at the top and a smaller hole at the bottom.

5 Go to youtu.be/DZhQQng-gKc and play the hologram video on your phone.

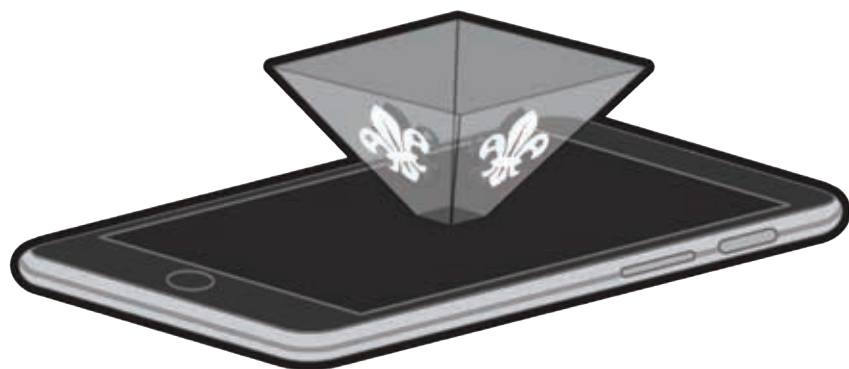
1 Download the template for the projector from bit.ly/1Nflwdd and print it out.

2 Cut out the four-sided shapes from the template, then cut them down the middle, so you're left with four triangular shapes.

3 Place the pieces of paper cut out from the templates on individual

6 Place the prism on your phone's screen, with the small hole on top of the small square on the screen. Now get your eyes level with the side of prism and you should see a revolving 3D image!

7 Check that you've followed all of the previous steps correctly by watching the video of this activity at youtu.be/QLORzhvT5a8.



TIME NEEDED

10 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Mobile phone
- Clear plastic
- Scissors

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Scouts Creative Challenge Award



Explorer Creative Arts Activity Badge



All Digital Citizen Staged Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

This creative activity encourages the young person to use their smartphone in a creative way. They will learn that holograms are not necessarily something that involves complicated equipment and technology.

OTHER SECTIONS FOR CUBS

Why not try a more low-tech version for Cubs? Print out some 3D shapes on the internet and get your Group to fold them into three-dimensional objects. All you need is printer paper and some Cellotape.

DOWNLOAD THIS PAGE

Find this and other great activities at scouts.org.uk/magazine.

#amillionhands

BUILD A MEMORY BOX

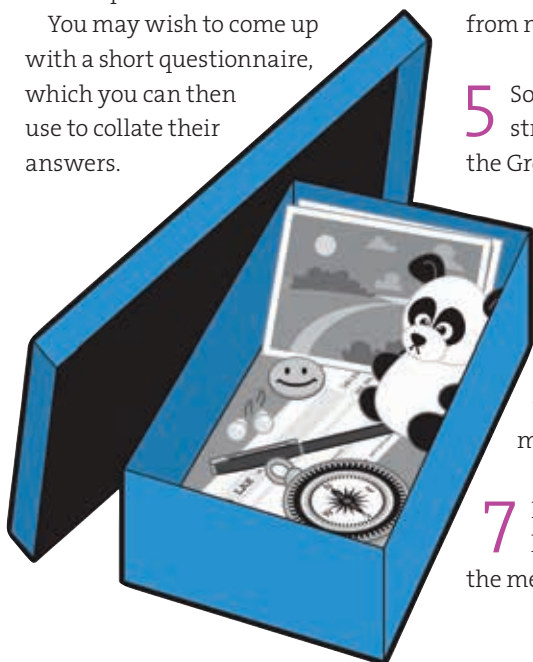
Make contact with a person with dementia and help to trigger their memories

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 To link up with local people living with dementia, make contact with care homes and dementia care services. Use the letter printed on the last page of A Million Hands Dementia Resource Pack, which can be downloaded from amillionhands.org.uk.

2 Once contact has been established with a person living with dementia, start a discussion with them or with their carers to find out a theme from their past that interests them. Possible themes could be transport, gardening, the seaside, the local area, a sport, a hobby, music from a specific era etc.

You may wish to come up with a short questionnaire, which you can then use to collate their answers.



3 Ask your section what kind of items they should collect for a memory box on this theme; this can be anything from small items and photos to a garment or a fragrance, for example.

4 With your section, decide what form your research will take. Depending on the theme, you could take a trip to the local museum or a particular local landmark or place. Once there, ensure that each person has a way of collecting memories. For example, taking photographs of images from that era, drawing pictures, recording sounds or music, or collecting physical objects from nature.

5 Source the memory box – a strong shoebox is ideal – and ask the Group to decorate it.

6 Once all the materials have been created and the items have been assembled, pool them and decide with your section which items should go into the memory box.

7 If appropriate, visit the care home with the Group to deliver the memory box.

TIME NEEDED

This is a staged activity

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Our World Challenge Award



Scout Artist Activity Badge



Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will discover that there is much more to the person than dementia. By making contact and interacting with those with dementia they make a direct impact – helping to reduce feelings of isolation and social exclusion that some people living with dementia can experience.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

You and your Group may wish to join in with reminiscence activities with the person living with dementia, using the memory box. The memory box doesn't have to be a physical box. For example, the Group may want to learn a few songs from a relevant era and perform them to the people living with dementia.

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everyone talking



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OR RETURN**
Arm raised with
circular motion
with hand



**MOVE FORWARD
(FORWARD
MARCH!)**
Arm raised,
forward and down



SINGLE LINE
Both arms
outstretched



FULL CIRCLE
Arms raised part
way in front and
circling around body



**PATROL FILE
(GET INTO LINE!)**
Arms out straight



HALF CIRCLE
Raise arms to
45 degree angle
from sides



SPREAD OUT
Raise arms to
90 degree angle
from sides



HURRY!
Arm at right
angle moving up
and down

HERE'S SOME WE
MADE UP EARLIER



SCOUTS ROCKS!
Both hands up,
with one making
the Scout sign,
the other making
the rock sign

**WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?!!**
Hands facing
up, shrug
shoulders



CHECK ME OUT!
Index and middle
finger pointing
to eyes

OMG!
Hands on
cheeks, shocked
face!

SOME IDEAS TO PUT YOUR
SCOUT SIGNALS INTO USE

- Wildlife watching
- Search and rescue
- Playing pranks on camp
- Organising simple troop formations
- Staying together on a hike
- Hostage rescue situations

MAKE A SPY DECODER

Turn your Scouts into spies and challenge them to crack a secret code

SUITABLE FOR SCOUTS

1 For each decoder, ask the Scouts to use the compass to draw three circles 8cm, 6cm and 4cm in diameter (measuring 4cm, 3cm and 2cm on the compass) and cut them out.

2 Now colour each of the circles in using different coloured pencils.

3 Take the largest circle and make small marks 0.9cm apart around the outside edge using a pencil. The object is to create 27 sections. For decoders to be compatible, they have to have the same number of sections.

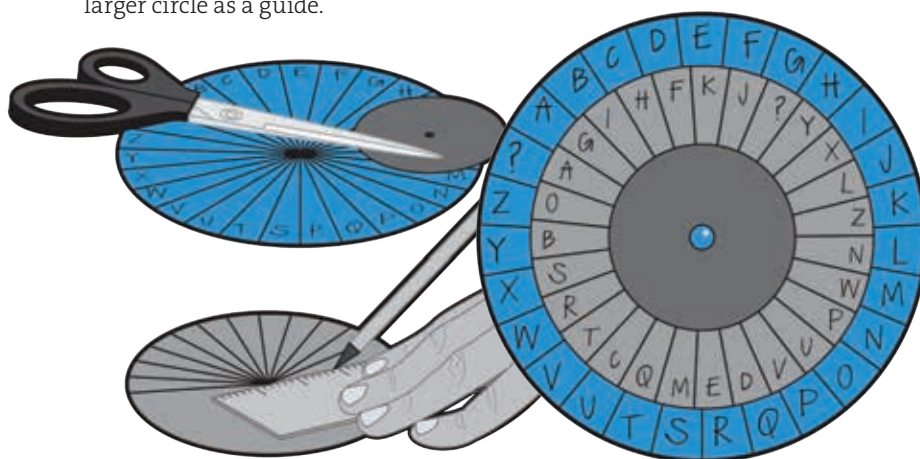
4 Ask the Scouts to punch a hole through the centre of the largest and middle circles. Attach the two circles with a split pin paper fastener and then draw the 27 sections on the middle circle, using the lines from the larger circle as a guide.

5 Ask Scouts to write the alphabet in capital letters in each of the sections on the largest circle, putting a question mark in the final, 27th section. Now ask them to do the same on the middle circle, this time mixing the letters of the alphabet up.

6 Attach the smallest circle to the center of your decoder.

7 Now create a code by lining up letters on both circles (eg. A + Z). To write a coded message, find the letter you want on the larger circle and write down the corresponding letter on the middle circle.

8 To crack the code, find the letter on the middle circle and write down the corresponding letter from the outside circle.



TIME NEEDED

30 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Thin card
- Coloured pencils
- Scissors
- Compass
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Split pin paper fasteners
- Marker pen

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Scouts Communicator
Activity Badge



Scouts Skills
Challenge Award

OUTCOMES

Scouts will create a decoder that is nearly impossible for someone else to crack because it offers 27 different codes. Encourage Scouts to make two identical decoders so they can send encrypted messages to each other. Making the decoder will teach Scouts the importance of precision in drawing and measuring.

OTHER SECTIONS FOR EXPLORERS

Ask Explorers to devise their own codes, for example, they could set the decoder where the letter A on the outside circle matches the first letter of the day of the week. Encourage them to look up the Jefferson Cipher Wheel, designed by US President Thomas Jefferson, where the encrypted message was gibberish and the meaning hidden.

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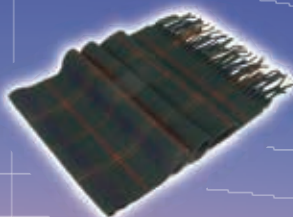
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PAPER CUP GAMES

Some plastic or paper cups are all you need for these low-cost, last-minute games

TOWER WARS

TIME NEEDED:

15 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Ask your young people to divide themselves into teams, each team should have an equal number of cups. The aim is for teams to battle it out by making the best towers they can out of the cups. Give each round a theme, ie, tallest tower, most creative tower, and impose a time restriction. The team who builds the best tower wins.

HUNGRY BEAVERS

TIME NEEDED:

10–15 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers and Cubs

This is like a game of Hungry Hippos with sweets. Fill a large plate with

sweets such as M&Ms or Skittles and give each Beaver and Cub a paper cup and thin straw. At the signal, they each have to use their straw and suction to pick up as many sweets as they can and drop them into the cup. The one with the most sweets in their cup at the end wins.

ON THE MOVE

TIME NEEDED:

5–10 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers

Build a stack of red cups, placing one blue cup in the middle of the stack. The object of the game is to move the blue cup through the stack until the blue cup is at the bottom. Have a collection of 40 cups per stack and impose a 60 second time limit. For the younger Beavers, have fewer cups in the stack and give them more time.

POPCORN RELAY

TIME NEEDED:

10–20 minutes

SUITABLE FOR:

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Make shoe cups by poking a hole in the bottom of a cup, pushing a wide elastic band through the holes and fixing it with a paperclip so the elastic band stays inside the cup. Sort the section into teams and give each person a shoe cup to fix over their own shoe, with the cup resting upright on top of their foot. The idea is to fill the cup with popcorn and race to fill your team's box, trying not to lose any popcorn on the way. The team that fills the box with the most popcorn within five minutes wins.

WANT MORE? Go online to scouts.org.uk/magazine to download our extended list of 10 cup games!

HAVE A SKYPE SKETCH-OFF

Try this video call game to sharpen your section's digital communication skills

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 Set up two Skype accounts for your section, or use two from different members of the leadership team. If you don't want to use Skype, you could always use Face Time on an Apple device or video call from an Android device.

2 Divide your Group into teams of two or three people and give two of the teams a laptop or tablet device, a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and send them into different rooms.

3 Each team then has a minute to draw a simple picture. It can be of anything they choose, eg a mug, a rugby ball, a boat, the moon, a dog, cat or fish.

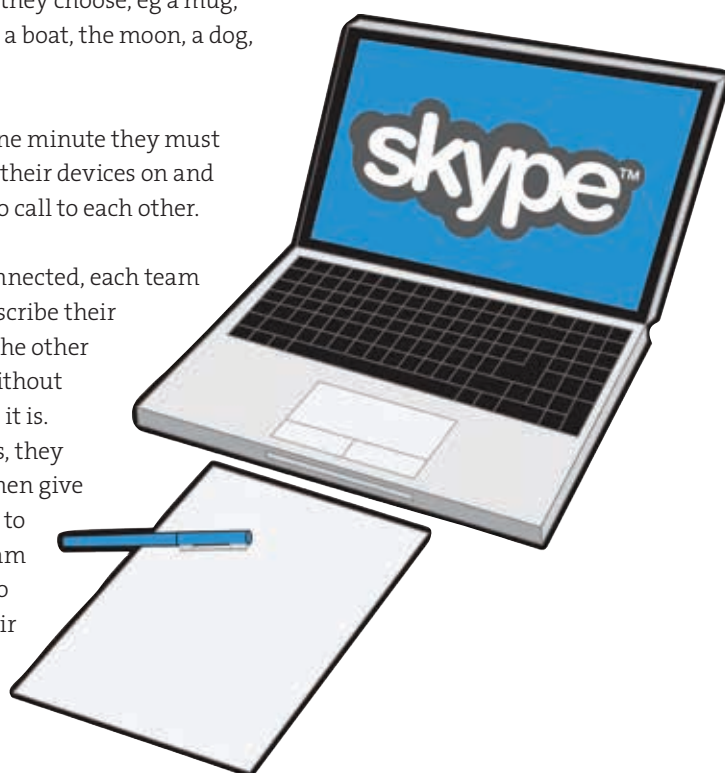
4 After one minute they must switch their devices on and make a video call to each other.

5 Once connected, each team must describe their drawing to the other team, but without saying what it is. Taking turns, they then must then give instructions to the other team about how to replicate their

drawing (eg 'Draw a semi-circle in the middle of the page', 'draw a vertical line of about eight centimetres down from the left bit of the semi-circle').

6 Once the teams have finished describing their illustration, bring them together to compare the drawings and find out which team gave the better instructions.

7 Take it in turns to allow all the teams to have a go at giving and receiving instructions. You could also create a league table to identify the strongest teams.



TIME NEEDED

10 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Tablet, laptop or a large screen, video-call enabled mobile phone
- Wi-Fi access or a 3G signal if using a tablet or phone with a sim card
- Paper
- Pens or pencils

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver, Cub and Scout Communicator Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

This fun activity will allow your Group to exercise their IT skills (some may have never used Skype or Face Time before), while also sharpening their communication skills. The game requires them to find ways to describe an object in an indirect way.

TAKING IT FURTHER

For the next level, why not divide your Group up into three teams for a Skype/video call version of Chinese whispers? Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. The first team must draw their picture and describe it via Skype to the second team. When they have finished, the second team must describe their version of the drawing to the third team. All three teams then compare their pictures.

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Can you spot?

- 10 Owls
- 9 Snow globes
- 8 Snowmen
- 7 Elves
- 6 Penguins
- 5 Arctic foxes
- 4 Yetis
- 3 Youth Commissioners,  Hannah,  Jagz and  Jay
- 2 Santa Claus
- 1 Bear Grylls



Illustration: Harry Bloom



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