

Quality of Programme Checker - Squirrels

The Quality of Programme Checker is a tool designed to help you to plan and review your programmes, and make sure that you are delivering quality Scouting to the young people that you work with.

A Quality Programme is Challenging, Relevant and Rewarding for every young person.

What we mean by Challenging

- More opportunities for outdoor and adventurous activities in safe environments
- Gaining confidence by participating in new or less familiar activities and stepping out of their comfort zones
- All young people regardless of their abilities, can enjoy and achieve

What we mean by Relevant

- Young people shape the programme based on what they want to learn and explore
- Ensuring the needs of every young person are met
- Responding to what young people are currently inquisitive about and reflecting this in the programme

What we mean by Rewarding

- Developing skills for life, including teamwork and leadership
- Supporting young people with their progression through the sections
- Young people are excited about Scouting, having fun and increasing in confidence

The red, amber and green categories will help you to identify any areas where your programme could be improved, and set targets for you to reach when planning your next programme. The figures included in the red, amber and green categories have been calculated based on requirements for the older sections, requirements may be adapted due to research on this section.




This tool could be used to review programmes which you have already run and identify areas that need a greater focus for the coming term or year, or new programmes which you are planning for the term or year ahead to make sure there aren't any gaps. You should tick the box next to the answer that best applies to your programme for each question.

To make sure that the tool is as beneficial as possible, you should be open and honest when completing it. You could share your results with others in your Group or District, and discuss best practice and tips for improving the quality of your own and others programmes.




How many activity badges do Squirrels gain before leaving the section?

-  Up to 12
-  Up to 10
-  Up to 5




What percentage of young people move onto Beavers?

-  75% or more
-  50-75%
-  Up to 50%




Youth involvement

-  Once a term Squirrels are given opportunity to be involved in planning the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is always acted upon.
-  Infrequently Squirrels are given opportunity to be involved in planning the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is sometimes acted upon.
-  Rarely Squirrels are given opportunity to be involved in planning the programme and provide feedback. Feedback is occasionally acted upon.



Delivery of the programme

-  Programme is always well planned; run by a range of appropriately skilled adults; uses a variety of methods. Feedback gathered from young people is positive.
-  Programme is normally well planned; uses a variety of methods; usually run by appropriately skilled adults. Feedback gathered from young people is normally positive.
-  Programme is occasionally well planned; limited variety in the methods used; programme is not always run by adults with appropriate skills, Feedback from young people is mixed.

How often does your section take part in any of the following activities each year:

- National programme initiatives
 - County Events / Competitions
 - District Events / Competitions
 - With another section
-  More than 3
 -  1 - 2
 -  0

How many activities take place outside the normal meeting place per year?

-  More than 6
-  3-6
-  Up to 3