SCOUTING'S PROGRAMME

Scouting offers a diverse and exciting selection of activities and experiences that are key to attracting and retaining young people. The Scouting programme provides adventure and challenge to young people in an age-appropriate way, helping them with their personal development and to grow their confidence. The programme of activities is planned by the sectional leadership team in partnership with young people. The programme should be flexible and have room to adapt and accommodate the needs of the individuals in the section.

The Scouting programme for all five sections is based around three main themes: **outdoor** and **adventure**, **world** and **skills**. In each section a range of badges and awards are there to support all aspects of Scouting, including the three main themes as well as, leadership, teamwork and personal development. The programme should be delivered in a balanced way that incorporates elements from each theme, to offer young people the most interesting, diverse and high quality experience, enabling every young person to achieve the top award in that section. The programme is designed to be progressive through the sections to offer young people an appropriate level of challenge. It is recommended that the Scouting programme, in all sections, should spend 50% of the time working on "outdoors and adventure" areas. This does not mean that 50% of the time young people need to be outdoors, but that the programme should have activities with an outdoor and adventure theme. Although the more time you can spend outside the better!

Youth Involvement

To make sure that Scouting stays exciting and relevant, the programme should be shaped by young people in partnership with adults. This means young people working together with adults to influence their whole Scouting experience. Young people can provide ideas and suggestions of activities they would like to try, share their own skills with other young people, and shape how Scouting is operated. Councils and Lodge, Six and Patrol systems are a really effective way to involve young people and also increase their leadership and team working skills.

Following consultation and development with young people and adults in the movement, revised section branding for all five sections will be available to use from January, with information, background and guidance available from scouts.org.uk/brand.

The Membership Award

The Membership Award is presented to all members of Scouting when they take the Promise and become a member of the Movement. The badge should be awarded when they are invested into the section as part of the Investiture ceremony and provides members with an understanding of the values and benefits of the Scouting Movement.

Joining In/Participation Badges

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts can gain the Joining In/Participation Awards that count the number of years they have been a member of Scouting. Young people can wear the highest badge earned in the previous section and add to it each year until they leave that section.

Moving On Awards

Moving On Awards are given to young people when they progress to the next section in the Movement. They are presented when they are invested in the new section.

Activity and Staged Activity Badges

Activity badges make up the majority of all the badges available to young people. They are specific to sections and cover a huge range of skills, experiences and interests. They are designed to be achievable to young people working individually outside their section, on something that is of particular interest to them.

Staged Activity Badges are available to young people in Beavers to Explorers and cover a range of topics and skills. Staged badges do not have to be completed in order; it is possible for young people to begin at whichever stage offers them an appropriate level of challenge. The stages are progressively difficult to offer young people an ongoing challenge.

THE BALANCED PROGRAMME 6-25 YEARS

MEMBERSHIP	JOINING IN	ACTIVITY BADGES	STAGED AWARDS	CHALLENGE AWARDS	TOP AWARDS
BEAVERS **Core Age: 6-8** Responsibility: Group Key Themes: • Outdoors and Adventure • World • Skills		19 Badges + Activity Plus	Hikes Away	6 Badges	Chief Scout's Bronze Award 6 Challenge Awards 4 Activity Badges of their choice
cubs **Core Age: 8-10½** Responsibility: Group Key Themes: • Outdoors and Adventure • World • Skills		36 Badges + Activity Plus	Nights Away	7 Badges	Chief Scout's Silver Award 7 Challenge Awards 6 Activity Badges of their choice
SCOUTS **Core Age: 10½-14** Responsibility: Group Key Themes: • Outdoors and Adventure • World • Skills		59 Badges + Activity Plus + Instructor	Time on the Water	9 Badges	Chief Scout's Gold Award 9 Challenge Awards 6 Activity Badges of their choice
EXPLORERS **Core Age: 14-18** Responsibility: District Challenge Areas: • Outdoors and Adventure • World • Skills		27 Badges + Activity Plus + Instructor	Sailing Nautical Skills 14 Badges available	DofE Awards Bronze, Silver, Gold Explorer Belt Badge, Belt available Young Leader Scheme, Belt available	Queen's Scout Award Chief Scout's Platinum Award Chief Scout's Diamond Award
network **Age: 18-25** Responsibility: District and UK Programme Areas: • Adventure • International • Community				DofE Awards Bronze, Silver, Gold Explorer Belt Badge, Belt available Scouts of the World Award	Chief Scout's Diamond Award Queen's Scout Award

Challenge Awards/Areas and Chief Scout's Awards

The Challenge Awards support the main themes of the programme and require young people to take part in a range of activities to develop their skills and understanding in each specific challenge area. They link directly to the Chief Scout's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Explorers do not have Challenge Awards, but they do have Challenge Areas that reflect the main Scouting themes in the same way as the other sections.

The Chief Scout's Awards celebrate the highest level of achievement that young people can gain in their section. Every young person should have the opportunity to achieve them. For Bronze, Silver and Gold, young people are required to complete the Challenge Awards and a selection of Activity Badges from their section. Platinum and Diamond have set challenges to complete and can be linked to Bronze and Silver DofE Programmes.

Young Leaders' Scheme

The Young Leaders' Scheme is a training scheme available to Explorer Scouts. It has been created to give young people the opportunity to gain valuable leadership and volunteering skills and experience by working with younger members of the Movement. Young Leaders are valuable assets to the association. Not only can they offer great assistance as part of the leadership team but they are likely to be the leaders of tomorrow, shaping the Movement and lives of other young people. Young Leaders form an important part of the leadership team of any younger section, bringing fresh ideas, techniques and plenty of enthusiasm.

Activity Leadership

Young people and adults are also encouraged to develop their practical skills by working towards and achieving Adventurous Activity Permits to participate, lead or supervise adventurous activities. Event passports are also available to enable under 18s to undertake peer-led residential experiences. Full information can be found at **scouts.org.uk/a-z**.

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Additional awards in the Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections

- The Explorer Belt is designed to broaden young people's understanding of different countries, cultures and ways of life; aiding personal development over a 10 day period. It is available to Explorer Scouts aged 16+ and Network members.
- The Queen's Scout Award (QSA) is Scouting's top youth award and is the culmination of everything that a young person does in Scouting. It requires commitment from young people to develop and challenge themselves in many new ways, and is an achievement that participants will remember for the rest of their lives. The QSA is aligned to Gold DofE programme and is recognised by many educational establishments and potential employers. It is available to Explorer Scouts aged 16+ and Network members.
- The Scouts of the World Award is a project based award that involves specific learning on a chosen theme, (environment, sustainable development or peace) and 14 days voluntary service working on a community project supporting your theme. It is available to all Network members.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a programme of activities for young people aged 14-25. There are three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold which are available to 14+, 15+ and 16+ respectively. The awards link with the Chief Scout's Platinum, Chief Scout's Diamond and Queen's Scout Awards where they fulfil some of the requirements for these Scouting awards.

Publications and resources

A wide range of activity ideas and programme material can be found on Programmes Online at **scouts.org.uk/pol** There are also a number of other publications and resources available to support leaders in their roles and inspire young people; these are available from **scouts.org.uk/shop**.