

Young Leaders - Information for Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders



Item Code FS103965 Aug 2010 Edition no 1

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Introduction

This is a broad overview of the Young Leaders' Scheme. It will help you as a Leader understand the concepts behind the Scheme and its benefits for you and your section.

A second fact sheet, entitled *Working with Young Leaders in your Section* provides guidance on making the best use of Young Leaders who wish to help in your group.

What is the Young Leaders' Scheme?

The Young Leader's Scheme is an ongoing programme of training designed to support the personal development of young people who wish to help with the younger sections and to enable these Young Leaders to work effectively in the section that they choose.

The scheme is not part of the Adult Training Scheme. Instead it is coordinated by an Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leader) in the District. The ESL(YL), who is responsible for all Young Leaders, is supervised by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner.

Most importantly, the Scheme is there to help you as a Leader and to ensure that the young person gets to make the most of their time with you in the Group.

Who can be a Young Leader?

Young leaders are young people between the ages of 14 and 18. Any young person between 14 and 18 can be a Young Leader. Often, a Young Leader will already be an Explorer Scout in your District, but they may choose to be a Young Leader only, and may even join your section for a limited time in order to complete a period of service for, for example, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

However, it is important that ALL Young

Leaders are registered with the District, via the ESL(YL), regardless of whether or not they take part in the wider Explorer Scout Programme. They are *automatically* members of the Young Leaders Explorer Scout Unit.

Who is the ESL(YL)?

The ESL(YL) has been appointed by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner to support and supervise Young Leaders in the District, to make sure all the modules of the Young Leaders' Scheme are on offer, and also to support you when you have a Young Leader in your section. The ESL(YL) can be a great source of support for Scouting, so remember to keep in regular contact!

What is the Young Leaders' Unit?

This depends on arrangements in your District. At the simplest level it may just be a list of Young Leaders in the District, kept up to date by the ESL(YL). They may only come together to complete Modules of the Young Leader's Scheme. Then again, they may well meet regularly like any other Explorer Scout Unit, with a Balanced Programme in addition to the modules of the Scheme. Either way, all Young Leaders should be strongly encouraged to take part in the wider District Explorer Scout Balanced Programme.

Why do Explorer Scouts become Young Leaders?

Explorer Scouts become Young Leaders to:

- have fun!
- gain the knowledge, skills and confidence required to become an effective leader
- further their own personal development
- complete the service requirement of one of the Explorer Scout Awards
- complete the service requirement of other awards, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

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- acquire some of the skills needed for the Adult Training Scheme

It is important to remember that these young people have the potential to be the adult Leaders of the future.

What are the components of the Young Leader's Scheme?

With the exception of Module A, this is a voluntary training scheme. It comprises a number of modules and project work, summarised below. As a Section Leader you may be asked to sign off various elements of awards or qualifications that the young person is working towards. You may also be asked to sign off some of the project work.

The modules of the scheme are:

- **Module A – Prepare for take off!**
This is the only compulsory module, and covers areas which every Young Leader will need to know (see below).
- **Module B – Taking the lead!**
The basics of leadership styles and the role of a leader.
- **Module C – That's the way to do it!**
Exploring ways of instructing younger members.
- **Module D – Kids behaving badly.**
How to deal with difficult behaviour.
- **Module E – Game on!**
The importance of games in the programme and how to run them.
- **Module F – Making Scouting Accessible.**
Understanding how to involve members with special needs in the Section programme.
- **Modules G and H – Programme plans/Programme plans plus.**
The practicalities of programme planning in the Section.
- **Module I – What did they say?**
Communicating effectively with younger members, and listening skills.
- **Module J – Awards and Badges.**
How they complement a Balanced Programme.
- **Module K – First aid masterclass.**
First Response course or equivalent.

In addition, they have the opportunity to complete four projects, **Missions 1, 2, 3 and 4**, each designed to build on what has been covered by the modules, and each slightly more demanding than the one before.

Completing Module A

This is the only compulsory module. **All Young Leaders MUST complete Module A within 3 months of joining the Young Leaders' Unit.** It is the responsibility of the ESL(YL) to make sure that Module A is offered often enough for this to happen.

This is important because it covers key areas, which every Young Leader will need to know:

- The Purpose and Method of the Scout Association
- Child protection
- Policy, Organisation and Rules
- Activity rules and safety

Rewarding participation in the scheme

Explorer Scouts should record their participation in the balanced programme, and their achievements in Scouting, through the **Building My Success** process. Young Leaders are no exception to this – they should record participation in the Young Leaders' Scheme on the relevant pages of the Explorer Scout Record Book, and should be awarded the relevant annual Participation Award. The ESL(YL) is responsible for making sure this happens, but it may be helpful for you to be involved too, particularly if the young person spends most of their time in Scouting as a Young Leader in your Section.

In addition, after completion of Module A, all Young Leaders are given a badge to wear on the Explorer Scout Uniform, indicating that they are Young Leaders.

Badges are also awarded for completing the four missions and, if all of these have been achieved, a Young Leader belt buckle can be presented to recognise the achievements of the Young Leader.

Finally, completion of some or all of the modules and missions, and experience gained as a Young Leader, may be credited as prior learning when the young person becomes an adult leader and takes part in the adult training scheme.

Non-Scouting organisations and the Young Leaders Scheme

A Young Leader may come to your section for a limited period in order to complete the service requirements of an Award administered by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or Girlguiding UK.

This is the only circumstance in which the Young Leader does not have to make the Promise or wear the Explorer Scout uniform. However, they must be members of a recognised Operating Authority, in the case of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, or members of Girlguiding UK. They must be registered with the ESL(YL).

If they wish to stay beyond the time needed to complete the award requirements, they should be encouraged to do so, but must then become a full member of The Scout Association.

And finally, a reminder...

Young Leaders have the potential to be the adult Leaders of the future but remember that they are young people first. With the right support and opportunities they can be a valuable part of your Colony leadership team.