

Explorer Scout Young Leaders- Nurturing talent and enhancing the Section

An Explorer Scout Young Leader offers a great opportunity for a Section. They can bring a range of different skills and expertise and can be given real responsibility, supporting with the planning and running of your Section. This not only benefits your Section, but allows the Explorer Scout Young Leader to develop their skills for later life, equipping them for successful careers and to take on an adult roles in Scouting.

Explorer Scout Young Leaders undertake a training scheme, which consists of a number of modules and project work. Examples of these include Programme Planning and First Aid. Usually, Explorer Scout Young Leaders will go through this training with their Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders).

As a Section Leader the support that you offer to your Explorer Scout Young Leader will contribute towards their development and will also help to ensure that the Section gets the most out of the Explorer Scout Young Leader's time.

Here are some top tips for working with Explorer Scout Young Leaders in your Section.

Welcome them!

Before the Explorer Scout Young Leaders first session, make sure they know where they are going and who they can expect to meet there. Remember when they first start that they may not have had a leadership role before and may feel nervous about their first session. Make sure you introduce them to the young people in your Section and the other Leaders, as well as parents at the start and the end of the session. This will help them to feel part of the Section. You can also invite them to appropriate meetings and events.

Get to know them and their experience!

With a new Explorer Scout Young Leader, it is great to spend a little bit of time getting to know them. Similarly to adults Leaders, they will have a range of experiences. Some areas you may wish to cover are:

- How long have they been in Scouting?
- Have they been through the Section they are helping with?
- What made them want to be an Explorer Scout Young Leader?
- Have they got any previous experience of working with young people?
- Have they any previous experience in leading on activities?
- Are they at school or college?
- Do they have siblings?
- What are their ambitions?

Find out what skills they have!

One of the best things about having a Explorer Scout Young Leader is that they can bring another skill set to your Section. Find out about what your Explorer Scout Young Leaders do in their time when they are not Scouting?

Are they studying media or photography? If so, they could help with the Digital badges, or help to update the Sections website and social media.

Are they a keen runner or football player? If so, can they support with the Health and Fitness and Physical badges?

Are they musical? Can they support with the performing arts badges?

Do they captain a sports team?

Have they been a Patrol Leader and Sixer?

Drawing on the knowledge and skills of Young Leaders can help to make your Programme more Youth Shaped and exciting.

What can they do?

Explorer Scout Young Leaders can do an array of tasks. They are not there to make the juice or tea, any more than any other Leader. They are part of your leadership team and can be given real responsibility. By investing some time at the beginning of the scheme with your Explorer Scout Young Leader, you are much more likely to see your Explorer Scout Young Leader develop and take an active role in planning and running the Section. Examples of appropriate tasks are:

- Helping to programme plan
- Running Youth forums and games to get feedback from the Section
- Running games and activities
- Opening or closing the meeting
- Helping with any website or social sites
- Running sessions on areas they feel confident with
- Talking to young people about their experiences, such as expeditions they have been on
- Helping to organise events
- Inspiring the Section and being a role model

In order for Explorer Scout Young Leaders to do these activities, they may need some support from you. It is advisable to talk through any tasks or activities before they do them for the first time.

What are your obligations?

While an Explorer Scout Young Leader is working in a Section, the Section Leader is responsible for their safety and welfare.

If the Explorer Scout Young Leader takes part in any residential or adventurous activities you should always obtain their parent or carer's permission. Consideration should also be given to the sleeping arrangements, as the Explorer Scout Young Leader is not permitted to share accommodation with either the adult Leaders or the young people in the Section in which they work.

Remember, with the right support and opportunities, Explorer Scout Young Leaders can be a valuable part of the Leadership team. They can help provide better Scouting for more young People.