

FAQs

1. Who tested all this?

We conducted extensive research, undertaking surveys and focus groups across the country, as well as reviewing feedback given to the Programme team. The design and illustration of the resource materials was undertaken by a young network of designers so it is very youth shaped and focused on being age appropriate.

2. Why have you removed the Programme Zones?

When we carried out our research, very few leaders used the zones for planning the programme. We concluded that for the programme to be as easy to deliver as possible it should be driven by participating in and achieving badges and awards, especially as this is how many leaders plan their programme. We made sure that all of the elements were still incorporated through the badges and by achieving the Chief Scout Award (top award) for the section.

3. How were new badges created?

A list was compiled of the most frequently requested badge for each section using data from previous Your Programme Your Voice (YPYV) surveys and the “Red Book” where feedback is logged. These badge titles were then sent out via YPYV for people to rank in order of those they would most like to see added to the programme. These badges were then developed.

The majority of proposed new badges have been created by looking at what is currently available in older/younger sections and then scaling the requirements down/up. In some instances, the existing badges have been tweaked to make them more challenging to allow for the clear progression that is required. External bodies and organisations were also included in the development of the new badges. This approach will help make things easier for leaders – particularly for those who have lots of young people that have moved up from the previous section – as they will have already done the ‘ground work’ of some badges.

There are a few new badges that the project team felt would help provide some recognition for things people are already doing with their sections, such as the Beaver Collector and Cub Backwoods Cooking badge

4. Why have you removed partnership awards?

Research showed that these awards were not overly popular and weren't really being used to create partnerships within the community. The themes and concept of the awards have been incorporated into other badges.

5. Have any changes been made to the Chief Scout Platinum and Diamond awards?

Minor changes to the International, Environment and Values (IEV) list were made in January 2014. No other changes have been made.

6. Why have the challenge awards and chief scout awards changed shape? How do they now fit together?

The challenge award badges have been redesigned to distinguish them as awards with new requirements. The new award badges are hexagon and fit together in a modular honeycomb design with the Chief Scout Award crowning the challenge badges. Each youth section has a different number of available awards, so a variety of honeycomb formations (6/7/9 badges) have been suggested for wearing the badges on uniform.

Beavers



Cubs



Scouts



7. Why haven't the Chief Scout platinum, diamond and QSA changed design?

These awards don't fit together in a shape on the uniform and so leaving them as standalone badges was preferable and a redesign would have been an unnecessary change.

8. Why don't Explorers have Challenge Awards?

The research showed that although Explorer Leaders were keen on the idea of having Challenge Awards, Explorer Scouts themselves were less interested. The new Challenge Areas aim to meet the needs of both Leaders and young people – providing them with more structure without the necessity of meeting badge requirements. Challenge award also would not feed into the Chief Scout Awards for the section as these are linked to the DofE awards.

9. When will the badge app be updated?

It will be updated in 2015 with new badge details. Please note that it is published by Duchy Software, and AP and PS Ltd, under licence, rather than The Scout Association itself.

10. What's happening with Scout Network?

Scout Network is a vibrant section for young people. The section is getting an active programme to support activities and a renewed structure to make it more accessible to 18 – 25 year olds. No amends are taking place to Scout Network until later in 2015. More information will be available in the coming months.

11. What is the cut-off date for the transition to the new programme?

There is nothing stopping you using the new programme straight away, there are some lovely new badges. The new programme should be being used and previous badges wound down by September 2015 to start the new term and school year.

12. If I have suggestions for badges or the programme, where can I send my feedback?

We will keep a record of any feedback as a result of this review and take action where appropriate. If people do want to feedback they need to contact programme@scouts.org.uk.