

Exploration or expedition?



For the Expedition Challenge Award, Scouts can do an exploration (a purpose with a journey) travelling to an area to carry out an investigation, or an expedition (a journey with a purpose) completing a task or small project.

The table below outlines the differences:

	Exploration	Expedition
Group size	4+	
Time	2 days, 90+ minutes travel to destination, 5+ hours of investigation over 2 days (following previous research)	2 days, 4+ hours travel per day
Night away	1 night away	
Accommodation	Campsite, bunk house, hostel or similar.	
Location	Countryside, town or city area not well known to team	Countryside or suburban area, ideally not well known to team
Transport	Foot, cycle, public transport, other	Foot, cycle, canoe, horse, other
Route planning	Rest/meal stops and timings	
Equipment	Appropriate for terrain, mode of travel, and to deal with emergencies. Nb. If camping, Scouts are not required to carry camping equipment.	
Navigation	Timetables, street map, A-Z, compass, GPS	OS map, compass, GPS
Emergencies	Emergency plan	
Catering	Cooking and eating 1+ hot meal themselves (eg. using kitchen; lightweight stove; campfire)	
Purpose	An investigation of an area	Task or small project
Permits needed	Nights Away plus possibly Hillwalking or Canoeing	Nights Away plus possibly Hillwalking, Cycling or Canoeing
Event Passport	May be issued to a Scout who will lead the rest of the team during Nights Away. Overnight venue should be aware and agree to this if the Scouts are to be unsupervised.	
Report back	Report, performance, video, presentation, blog, website	

For either option, Scouts must have appropriate adult supervision bearing in mind their age, experience, the terrain and activity. As a minimum, such supervision should involve a visual check at the beginning and end of the day, and an adult being available in the local area. It would not usually be an appropriate challenge for the Scouts to be accompanied at all times by an adult. Rules and guidance on peer led activities can be found in POR.

You should ensure that you follow the rules and guidance for running Nights Away experiences, such as relevant activity permits and nights away permits, InTouch, parental permission and first aid arrangements. Guidance can be found at scouts.org.uk/nightsaway, and within the Nights Away publication. If Scouts are completing their exploration or expedition abroad, refer to the guidance at scouts.org.uk/visitsabroad.

For further guidance on the Expedition Challenge Award, go to scouts.org.uk/expeditionchallenge



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