

# LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG LEADERS

The final part of the Explorer programme, the Young Leaders' Scheme, has arrived. **Graham Haddock**, National Commissioner for Explorer Scouts, looks at the scheme's structure, the training available and how the scheme will benefit all young people

Since the first half of this year, there has been a buzz of excitement up and down the country as Leaders and Explorer Scouts start to get to grips with the practical realities of the new Programme. I have had the opportunity to visit several County/Area and District Explorer Scout events, and the overwhelming consensus is that we have a winning formula on our hands.

One vital piece of the Explorer Scout jigsaw has been missing – the Young Leaders' Scheme – but not any longer. At the regional Adult Training briefings, which started in late September, the Young Leaders' Scheme was launched in all its glory. Free copies of the new resource have been issued to each County/Area and District.

A team of Leaders working with the Explorer Scout Section has written the new resource. Initial draft modules were field-tested in a number of Counties and Areas, and participants at the first District Explorer Scout Commissioner course at Gilwell Park were asked to comment on the proposals. Input has also been received from other established Young Leaders' Schemes being run around the UK. Let's look at what's on offer.

## THE NEW RESOURCE

The new resource is called *Young Leader Essentials* and it fits, in terms of style and layout, with the other new Explorer Scout resources. It contains a detailed



explanation of what a Young Leader is, how a Young Leaders Unit might operate, what the responsibilities of the Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leader) (ESL(YL)) are, including a detailed job description for the ESL(YL), and details of the training modules and annual projects.

## THE TRAINING MODULES

There are 11 training modules, each designed to be delivered in 60 to 120 minutes (except the First Aid module). The only compulsory module is the first one, *Prepare for take-off*. This module must be completed within three months of becoming a Young Leader. It covers some of the important issues for any



Leaders in The Scout Association, including child protection, safety and risk assessment.

The other training modules are optional, although clearly it is hoped that Young Leaders will want to complete as many of these as possible. The others modules are:

- *Leadership skills* – a session on how to be a Leader and leadership styles.
- *That's the way to do it!* – helping our Young Leaders teach others in a fun and interesting way.
- *Kids behaving badly* – an interesting module which explores challenging behaviour.
- *Game on!* – this module looks at different sorts of games and how best to run them.



- *Special people* – how do Young Leaders deal with Beaver, Cubs and Scouts with different or special needs?
- *Programme Plans* and *Programme Plans plus* – you can guess what these two are about!
- *What did they say?* – helping Young Leaders understand to listen to the needs and wants of their younger members and how to represent these views in the Section Leadership Team.
- *Awards and badges* – reviews the awards structure in each of the three younger Sections.
- *First Aid masterclass* – a first response course or similar.

The modules are explained in great detail, including what equipment might be needed, how to run the module (although these are only suggestions), and each contains specific guidance notes for the session presenters. It is hoped that most of the sessions will be able to be delivered by people who are not adult trainers, although clearly such people will be of great help to the ESL(YL) and the District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC) in running the modules.



## METHODS OF DELIVERY

The modules can be delivered in a number of ways:

- Nine modules over two weekends as part of another activity.
  - One module every month/three months.
  - Parts of a module as part of the routine Unit programme.
- This flexibility has deliberately been built into the scheme to allow ESL(YL)s to tailor the scheme to local circumstances.

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Each year, the Young Leader will be expected to complete a project, or 'mission'. In the first year, the mission is to plan and run three indoor Section meetings, and in the second year, the mission is to plan and run three outdoor Section meetings.

Missions for years three and four become a little more challenging. After each mission has been completed, the Young Leader must report back to their Young Leader Unit on their mission challenges and experiences.

## FACTSHEETS

A factsheet has been prepared to help Leaders in the Beaver, Cub and Scout Sections understand their roles in the new scheme. Factsheets for the Young Leaders have been prepared for most of the modules – some modules shouldn't need factsheets if the other Explorer Scouts resources are used. These factsheets will be available in A4 format but they will also be downloadable from ScoutBase in *Navigator* size.

Young Leaders should also be allowed the opportunity to take part in the wider District Explorer Scout programme and gain each of the awards and badges available to other Explorer Scouts. A Certificate of Achievement should be issued each year recording what training the Young Leader has completed.

It is clear that many Explorers and their Leaders have been waiting in keen anticipation for this resource. We are confident that it should offer our Young Leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership skills within our Movement. And just maybe we will see the Leaders of tomorrow start their adult Scouting life as Young Leaders. Best of luck! ■