

LEADING THE WAY

In the six months since the launch of the Young Leader's Scheme, things have come a long way. **Tom Ovenstone** looks at how it is all progressing

EXPLORER SCOUTS



If a week is a long time in politics, then six months in Scouting must equate to an eternity, such is the pace of development in the Movement at the moment. Six months ago, the Explorer Scout Programme was still very new. One vital piece of the jigsaw, the Young Leaders' Scheme, was missing. Six months later, the Explorer Scout Section is growing quickly and the Young Leaders' Scheme is proving to be one of the most successful and popular aspects of the Programme.

As far as I am aware, the prize for being fastest off the blocks must go to North Yorkshire Scout County, who ran a number of modules for the Young Leaders in their patch the weekend after they received their copies of *Young Leaders' essentials*. Now that's keen! Of course, it's not a race, and the important thing is to make sure that Explorer Scouts in your local area have access to Young Leaders' training.

STRUCTURES

I know that people up and down the country are getting used to the Explorer Scout mantra of flexibility, but in this particular case it really is something that cannot be over-stressed. The Young Leaders' Scheme is designed to be delivered in virtually any way and over any time period. It should be appropriate to the local circumstances of the Explorer Scouts undertaking the scheme. The only requirements regarding timing and delivery are that each Young Leader must complete Module A *Prepare for take off!* within

three months of embarking on the Scheme, and that they also complete one of the four projects on an annual basis.

This means that modules can be delivered in a variety of ways. Module A could be run as part of a Young Leaders' meeting once a term every time there are three Young Leaders in the Unit that need to complete it, or perhaps in conjunction with a neighbouring District. This last method has the advantage of sharing the workload of delivering the module and allows Explorer Scouts to mix across Districts.

Remember that while all of the modules in the scheme are designed to take between 90 and 120 minutes to deliver, there is no reason why these modules cannot be broken down further. One module could be delivered over the course of a month, with module training sessions interspersed with other Explorer Scout activities.

Alternatively, consider delivering modules as part of another event – perhaps an Explorer Scout activity weekend or camp. It may even be possible to run a weekend devoted entirely to the Scheme, where four or five modules are delivered over two days, again interspersed with other activities.

Make sure that Young Leaders in your patch are aware of any training that is being offered elsewhere. Cross-District and County/Area co-operation eases the workload on those in charge of delivering the Scheme and ensures that Young Leaders have access to as wide a variety of modules as possible.

Consider how the support structure for the Young Leaders' Scheme is set up in your local area. Could you be making better use of resources and manpower by linking with another Young Leaders' Unit? In the North West, one County is sharing three Young Leaders' Units between 12 Districts to ensure that modules are delivered regularly. Perhaps you could see what the County next door to you is doing and whether you can work together with them to offer better Young Leaders' provision.

DELIVERY

There has been some confusion over whether the Young Leaders' Scheme is the responsibility of Local and County Training Managers or of Explorer Scout



The key to the Young Leaders' Scheme is flexibility. Completion of modules can be done as part of another event or with another District. The North Yorkshire Scout County (above) have run a number of events for Explorer Scouts, incorporating aspects of the modules for Young Leaders

Leaders. This is understandable, given that the scheme deals with training and was distributed at the Adult Training workshops last autumn.

In fact, the responsibility for making sure that all Explorer Scouts have access to the scheme rests with the District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC). The responsibility for delivering the Young Leaders' training modules lies with the Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders) (ESL(YL)), who in some cases will be the DESC as well.

All of the suggested methods included in *Young Leaders' essentials* are designed so that they can be delivered by an ESL(YL) and very much involve 'learning by doing' with games and activities. However, in planning the delivery of modules, an ESL(YL) might wish to contact members of their local adult training team with a view to utilising their knowledge of training techniques and other tips. Section Leaders who work with Young Leaders

as part of the Section team are often also interested in helping out. Remember, they are the experts on their Section and could play a valuable role in the delivery of most of the modules of the Scheme.

There is no requirement for an ESL(YL) to have achieved competencies in either presenting or facilitating. However, if they feel that these skills would be of benefit to them, then they should talk to their District Explorer Scout Commissioner.

RECORD CARDS

Some people have asked why there is no space on the Explorer Scout record card to record the progress of a young person through the Young Leaders' Scheme.

The answer is that Explorer Scout record cards were produced before *Young Leaders' essentials* went to print. This meant that things like module titles were still uncertain, so they were not included on the record cards.

The second edition of the record cards, which should be available from this autumn, will contain space to record all the modules and projects in the Young Leaders' Scheme. In the meantime, a mini Young Leaders' record card is being produced, to fit in the *Navigator* file. This will be available to download from ScoutBase shortly.



More information is now available to help you run the Young Leaders' Scheme in your area

SECTION LEADERS

Section Leaders often wish to learn more about the Young Leaders' Scheme, but don't know how to access the information they require. The following may provide some help.

Factsheet FS452009 (*Young Leaders – Information for Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Leaders*) is available from the Scout Information Centre and can also be downloaded from ScoutBase. This will give you a brief overview of what Young Leaders can be expected to do, what training they receive and what your role in their experience might be. For further information, take a look at *Young Leaders' essentials*, one copy of which was distributed to each District Explorer Scout Commissioner and Assistant County and Area Commissioner (Explorer Scouts) last autumn. Copies can also be purchased from the Scout Information Centre. You could also try contacting the ESL(YL) in your area – they will be pleased to explain exactly how the system works locally and what opportunities and support are available to Young Leaders. You might even be able to contribute to the training that Young Leaders receive.

HALLO AND GREETINGS

BY ANDY SLANEY

The more observant readers amongst you will have noted that there hasn't really been a regular contributor to the Explorer Section pages since they were created. That is about to change. From next month, the three pages that you flip to first every month (you do turn to these first, don't you?) will be written by me.

Programme ideas

Who exactly is 'me'? Why should you read anything I write? Well, let me answer the second question first – you shouldn't. No, don't turn straight over – give me a chance to explain why. I have no magic wand. I have no more experience than you. In fact, if you started Explorer Scouting on the first day you were able to, then you have more experience than me!

On the other hand, hopefully I have some different ideas, some alternative thoughts on doing things and, even if you don't like what I say, I hope to be able to provoke you into thinking about something you do. This might help you to do it just a little better, or it might confirm that you are already doing it the best way possible.

In fact, if I do manage to confirm with you that you already do something in the best way possible, please write to me and tell me. I can then share it with the other readers, and then more people get to know about it and hopefully another few dozen Explorer Scouts will gain the benefit too. Sharing is what Scouting is all about.

Who am I?

Enough of this rambling – back to the first question. Just who is this person who has entered your Scouting life, wasn't actually invited and will be hanging around (like a bad smell) for at least the next year? Well, I could give a very good plug for the new ScoutsReunited website at this point, and tell you to find out all about my Scouting career on there, but then one of you will post me a very nice handwritten letter and tell me that they

FINALLY

The Young Leaders' Scheme isn't up and running everywhere yet, due to the ongoing transition between Explorer Scouts and Venture Scouts. However, things are definitely starting to happen. As one DC in the North East wrote recently in an email:

haven't got one of those 'E number' things yet (only joking!).

In the interests of all my readers, I will include a bit about me here. I wasn't a Beaver Scout – they didn't have them in my day. I wasn't an Explorer Scout – they didn't have them in my day either. Before someone is rude, I will point out that the same applies to me and Rover Scouts too!

I joined this great Movement of ours back in May 1974 as a Cub Scout and I haven't left since. In that time, I have achieved all the progressive awards that were in existence at the time, from Gold Arrow to Chief Scout's Award. I can now proudly claim to be a Queen's Scout Award Holder, as well as holding the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – and I regard them in that order too. I guess I will touch on that topic again in a future issue.

As a Leader, I was always involved with the Scout Section until I had a major house move (200 miles south), and became an Assistant County Commissioner for the Venture Scout Section (ACC(VS)). The new Sections came along and so did a new structure within the County. ACC(VS) no longer existed, so I became an Assistant Venture Scout Leader until such time as the Explorer Section took over, which brings me right up to date.

Looking ahead

In future issues, I hope to include a couple of items to get those grey cells working on helping you to provide a better programme for your Explorer Scouts. A working title of one such item is 'It'll never work'. Answers on a postcard to the usual *Scouting Magazine* address with what that one might be about. You'll just have to wait until next month to find out!

You can write to Andy via the *Scouting Magazine* office at Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW or email him at scouting.magazine@scout.org.uk

'By the way, three of us ran a meeting with 13 Young Leaders on Wednesday evening to agree the format of a District programme for the YL training set out in *Young Leaders' essentials*. The Young Leaders were brilliant. Thank goodness this is where the future of Scouting lies!'

Let's all work together to make the next six months even better. ■

TIME	ACTIVITY	ZONE	METHOD	INSTRUCTIONS
30 mins, then 1 evening or afternoon	Never tried it	Physical recreation	Games, Outdoor activities, Visits	Each Explorer Scout makes a list of physical activities that they have never tried but have always wanted to have a go at, such as lacrosse, fencing, windsurfing, or tandem cycling. Put the lists together to find the most popular activities and include them in the Unit programme.
1 evening (minimum)	Fun sports day	Physical recreation	Projects, Working with other Sections, Planning, Working together	Put the Explorers into small groups to plan a District fun sports day. Each group should consider which fun events they could run for each of the other Sections, how the event would be managed and what equipment would be needed. The plans could then be passed on to the District Leadership team for inclusion in the District programme.
2 evenings	Drugs awareness video	Physical recreation, Community service, Values	Projects, Working with other agencies, Technology	Produce a drugs awareness video for the Scout Section or for other Explorer Scouts. Research will be needed and the video could include interviews with people from other agencies, for example the local police or a local support group. Think about how these sensitive issues will be portrayed and learn about video editing at the same time.
1 evening and then several weeks	Improve your fitness	Physical recreation	Projects, Physical activity	Undertake a challenge to improve your physical fitness. As a Unit, arrange a visit to the local gym where weight, height, body fat, heart rate, blood pressure and so on can be measured and recorded as a starting point. Over the next term, each individual is challenged with improving their fitness. They should keep a record of what they are doing. At the end of the term visit the gym again and see who has shown the greatest improvement. What have they been doing? It is important to discuss the dangers of obsession with body size and shape at some point within this project.
1 evening	Silly sports	Physical recreation	Physical activity, Fun	Have an evening set aside to improvise a silly sport, for example fancy dress tennis, or sponge cricket where the balls are made of wet sponges or water bombs. Play something really silly – the wetter the better!