

INSPIRATION RAIDER

This month sees the return of Laura Craft, to take on the challenge of searching for the elusive Values and Relationships Programme Zones...



Laura Craft stops, turns and winks before striding confidently into Gilwell Park. She has always claimed she can sense an adventure, and the home of Scouting seems to be an adventure waiting to happen. Exciting Programme ideas appear to be just flowing out of the Park boundaries.

Outside the White House, she is met by a group of Explorer Scout Leaders, camping at Gilwell with their Units. "Laura", one of them says with a broad smile, "we have a challenge for you, should you wish to accept it". She can tell from the confident look in their eyes that they think this one will be beyond her, but she's more than ready for their games!

"We plan our programmes using the Programme Zones for Explorer Scouts. Our Explorer Scouts are involved in planning their programme and together we come up with some really good activities. There are, however, two Programme Zones that we really struggle with. We struggle to come up with exciting, engaging activities for the Values

and Relationships Zones. Our challenge for you is to find us some excellent ideas for these two." Laura flashes them a smile and says, "No problem". Then she has a quick go on the climbing wall before leaping astride her motorbike and burning of into the sunset.

Booting up her trusty computer, Pal, Laura begins to consider the task ahead. Explorer Scouts come to Explorers to be challenged, to do exciting and adventurous activities with their friends. In our Movement we wish to develop our Explorer Scouts as young people. The Values and Relationships Programme Zones ensure that our activities are broad and address the development of the whole of a young person. These Programme Zones are as important as Outdoors, Skills and Physical Recreation; but they do seem to cause more difficulties for the Leaders. Laura quickly explains the problem to her super-intelligent computer.

Pal: Well Laura, the first thing you need to do is have a look at the existing Programme ideas for these two Programme Zones.

Laura: Of course! The Unit Programmes resource! How could I forget...

She rushes off to her local Scout Shop (Discreet plug: Unit Programmes are also available from Outdoors or the Information Centre!) to get herself the resource. "Wow!" Laura exclaims, "The

activities for Values and Relationships are really excellent and widely varied!" More important, though, is the Introduction page for each of the Programme Zones which explains where the Zone concept came from and what its purpose is.

Why is there a Values Zone?

As young people mature, their values develop and help to shape their lives. Young people's values define the way they treat other people, and influence what other people think of them. By thinking about values and by helping other people consider theirs, you can help develop the shared values that form the basis of your local community and wider society.

By actively helping young people to consider and discuss their values, you can help them:

- Develop a better understanding of their values and become more confident in their own beliefs.
- Understand and play an active role in their local community and wider society.
- Respect the values of others and be tolerant towards everyone they meet.

Why is there a Relationships Zone?

As young people develop, they will often need to be tolerant of others, understand alternative points of view and express their own. They will also need skills in teamwork, sharing with others and

courtesy. (From the *Introduction to Unit Programmes*)

Laura heads back to Pal.

Laura: I think that'll really help Leaders. Knowing the desired outcomes of an activity helps to ensure that the activity realises them.

Pal: Yes, I agree. Some of the activity ideas in there also demonstrate another important point.

Laura: Which is?

Pal: These activities don't need to take up a whole evening. Some of the activities contained in the Unit Programmes are suggestions to be incorporated into other activities, such as games to be played around the campfire, or while walking on a hike, or at the end of a game, as well as activities for a whole evening.

Laura: Yes, that's a good point. Activities can fit into more than one Programme Zone and it only takes a little modification to bring in the Values element to an activity. Also, a whole evening doesn't have to be given over exclusively to a Programme Zone. Many evenings will be a combination of a whole variety. If your Unit has a flag break and a prayer in it, then that also counts for Values, as does a Scout's Own on a camp.

Pal: Where else will you find activity ideas for these two Programme Zones then?

Laura doesn't reply. She's already outside, climbing into her helicopter, preparing to fly off towards the wonderful *Scouting Magazine* office [*Ed. – Stilton alert!!*] There, she's sure she'll find ideas in the back copies. She knows from her last search that the Explorer Scout 'Programmes on a Plate' has been covering a Programme Zone each month for more than a year. She finds that April 2003 and March 2004 both had lots of ideas for Values activities, and September 2003 had suggestions for activities for the Relationships Programme Zone. She also learns that Relationships are going to be covered in August 2004! Back in her helicopter, Laura heads home to base.

Laura: I have to admit that I'm a little

confused. The ideas for the activities are out there, so why is this a difficult one to fit into the programme?

Pal: Well, my research shows me there might be a number of reasons. One possibility is that Explorer Scouts are being involved in planning the programme without having the approach of the Balanced Programme and Programme Zones explained to them, so they're planning all their favourite activities, or new exciting activities, without understanding the point of these two Programme Zones.

Laura: What can be done about this?

Pal: We need to make sure they know about the programme they are involved in planning, and that we support them in using the available resources to get ideas for all the Programme Zones. Any Explorer Scouts who are Young Leaders will be way ahead of the game here, because 'Module G – Programme Plans' discusses Programme Zones and Balanced Programme planning in relation to the younger Sections, so they should be used to working in this way.

Laura: What's the other problem?

Pal: My research indicates there are still some people who gear their entire Programme around the available awards, such as the Duke of Edinburgh, the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond, and Queen's Scout Awards. They haven't yet realised that the programme is based on a balanced approach that should be led by the Programme Zones and driven by a rich mixture of fun, exciting activities balanced across all eight Explorer Scout Programme Zones.

Laura: That must be a training issue,



What better inspiration than the great outdoors to get your Group reflecting about the relationships and values in their lives?





then! The Leaders need support in understanding the programme they are running, and the District Explorer Scout Commissioner needs to support that process and help with the programme planning to explain how the awards can be achieved through the Balanced Programme.

Pal: You're right, Laura. Some of these solutions may take time and effort. In the meantime, why don't you find out the types of activities some Explorer Scouts and Leaders like to do in these Programme Zones and how they fit in with the rest of their programme?

Laura: Good idea! I'll take the convertible. *[She zooms off]*

"We did this one activity where we got into little groups. One person had to disappear for a few minutes while the rest



of us drew a picture of what we wanted to be when we were older. When they came back in they had to match up the picture with the person it belonged to. When the next person went out, we drew our favourite animal...then wrote down our favourite book, drew our worst fear, our favourite hobby and so on, until everyone got a go. We were thinking about things that were important to us as well as getting to know more about one another".
Sam, Explorer Scout

"We're going to do a Midsummer Madness activity, with a treasure hunt around a big hill near us. We'll be at the top as the sun sets on the longest day.

I was a Guide for a while, and one thing that sticks in my memory from that time was going for a dawn hike. We walked along the cliffs in the dark and stopped at this campsite. We stood on the cliff top singing 'Taps' as the sun rose over the sea. Then we made eggy bread and walked home. It was something very simple, yet that moment has stayed with me. It really meant something and was a very spiritual moment. I'd like the Explorer Scouts in my Unit to experience

something like that. It fits into Physical Recreation and Outdoors Activity Zones as well as Values".

Joanna, Explorer Scout Leader

"We wanted a video night, but realised there wasn't much from the Values Programme Zone in our Programme. So we decided to choose the videos carefully and talk about them afterwards. One was *The Fifth Element*, in which the lead character wonders if the world is worth saving when we humans spend our time waging war on one another and starving half the world. It's a good film and we enjoyed watching it, but then we had deep discussion afterwards on the concept of war, and the values that are important to us. It took a while to get the discussion going, but with a little nudging from Jack (the Leader) we got going and it was quite interesting."

Stuart, Explorer Scout

"I've found that, as well as the whole evening activities, there are times when the Leader just brings out a point from a game or activity that is all about Values or Relationships. Also, some of the Units in the District do regular Church Parades, as part of their Partnership Agreements with the Group they are partnered to. Most of the Explorers turned out for the St George's Day Parade and Service. Due to the excellent activities and exciting programme being offered, Explorers seem to be getting less embarrassed being seen in their uniforms."

Paula, District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Laura Craft thanked the Explorers and their Leaders for their time. Leaping astride an unsaddled Palomino, she galloped back to Gilwell Park, where she dismounted in front of the same group of Explorer Scout Leaders she'd met earlier in our tale. Catching her breath, she smiled and said, "Your challenge, should you wish to accept it, is to use the information I've gathered for you to continue your excellent programme planning and carry on enjoying Explorer Scouting while including activities from the Values and Relationships Programme Zones!" Grinning wildly, she leapt back on to her horse and rode off into the sunset.

Next month, Laura is faced with yet another challenge; to find ideas for the International and Community Service Programme Zones. ■

Activity idea: A Scout's Own

Scout's Own is the name of an act of worship in Scouting. It's usually a religious or spiritual 'service'. It can be held on camp on the Sunday (or Saturday, depending on the religion observed) with everybody in uniform, or it can be much less formal.

How can we use Scout's Own with our Explorer Scouts?

The key is to make sure the service means something to the Explorer Scouts and that they are involved in the planning. The Scout's Own should include and involve everybody, regardless of ethnic or religious background. A Scout's Own can be a time of quiet and reflection on the camp or event, their achievements and opportunities, and the world around us.

What can be included?

A Scout's Own can include prayers and hymns, but it can also involve thought-provoking non-religious readings, poems or songs.

How can it be planned?

If the Explorer Scouts are not used to being involved in Scout's Own or other spiritual services, they may find it a challenge to begin with, but once they are used to being involved they will be keen to ensure it reflects their needs and thoughts. The moment must be tailored to the occasion. It could be a very brief informal Scout's Own at the summit of a mountain, or a more formal celebration at the end of a weekend camp or event. Make sure the Explorers know what the style of the occasion will be and give them plenty of warning to bring along a piece of music, a poem or a reading that they would like to contribute. Afterwards, ask the Explorer Scouts informally how they thought it went and what they would like to see done differently next time.

A Scout's Own can, if done right, be a wonderful, memorable way of rounding off a fantastic weekend, activity or event, bringing everybody together in sharing a valuable experience.

Further information

Contact the Scout Information Centre at Gilwell Park (Tel: 0845 300 1818) for back issues of Scouting, and refer to p82 for addresses of Outdoors shops.



PROGRAMMES ON A PLATE

THIS MONTH'S THEME IS OUT AND ABOUT, WRITTEN BY MEL KESTEVEN

TIME	ACTIVITY	ZONE	METHOD	INSTRUCTIONS
One evening	Urban outdoors	Outdoors	Outdoor activity	Get your copy of Urban Outdoors (check out www.urbanoutdoors.org.uk for further information) and use your cityscape for some Explorer Scout mayhem and madness.
A weekend	Climbing and caving weekend	Outdoors, Physical Recreation, Skills	Residential experience, physical activity	Spend a weekend in the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, Dartmoor or any other suitable place you can think of. Camp, stay in a bunkhouse, youth hostel or on a Scout HQ floor and spend a day going up (climbing) and a day going down (caving). You will need to ensure that you have appropriately trained and authorised people with you.
An afternoon or evening	Horseshooting	Outdoors, Physical Recreation, Skills	New skills, physical activity	Get in touch with your local riding stables and book an afternoon trekking as an introduction to riding.
One evening	Outdoor sculpture	Skills, Outdoors	Creativity, working with others	As a Unit, or in smaller groups, create a sculpture for outdoors using junk metal, crockery, wire, concrete, etc. Make sure you have permission before you begin and spend some time on the design process, particularly on a message or a theme for your sculpture.
An afternoon or evening	Hovercrafting	Outdoors	New skills	Introduce some 'air' activities to your Programme with hovercrafting! This makes a great District Activity.
An afternoon or evening	Sailing	Outdoors, Physical Recreation, Skills	New skills, working with other groups, physical activity	Make links with local Sea Scouts and ask them to set up a joint sailing activity for an evening or an afternoon.
An afternoon or evening	Activity and BBQ	Outdoors, Physical Recreation	Working with others, outdoors	Hold an exciting activity inviting older Scouts and friends and set up a barbecue meal for everyone afterwards. This brings a large number of people together in the outdoors and involves working closely together.
One evening	Midsummer madness hike	Outdoors, Physical Recreation, Values	Games, reflection	21 June is Midsummer's Day, the longest day of the year. You don't have to join in with the pagan Solstice at Stonehenge, but there are other activities you can develop for the longest day of the year. Go for a hike, play games, do an outdoor treasure hunt. Whatever you do, make sure it is outdoors. Then you can gather in a place of significance as the sun sets and take a moment of reflection about the cycle of the year and the passing of time.