
Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of Scout Network eNews of 2008.

A very happy New Year to you all! We have much to do to match the excitement and success of the Centenary year. The volunteers and staff at UK Headquarters are working hard to support you, and help continue the year on year growth.

Taking The Lead

Following on from the strengthening of the Scout Network Chairperson role, the Scout Network Team will be launching the *Taking the Lead* resource in the spring of 2008.

In the Scout Network, where Members, with the support of their Network Leaders and Commissioners, are responsible for running their own Programme, it becomes crucial to involve members in the decision-making process. As Commissioners, we have the responsibility to support them in learning the necessary skills.

Taking The Lead will help to promote the active participation of our Members in the day to day running of the Scout Network at a local or County/Area level. Most importantly the resource will help Members to develop their lifelong leadership skills.

The resource is delivered in four sections

- o Being a Member of Scout Network
- o Building skills outside Scout Network
- o Being on the Scout Network Committee
- o Additional skills/information

Taking The Lead will be a free resource that will be available to download from the Scout Network webpages. Full details of the resource will be issued in the spring.

SNet and ES Support Workshops

Autumn 2008 will see a series of joint one-day workshops for the Explorer Scout Section and Scout Network Section. The aim of these days will be to help build stronger links between the Sections and

to promote good practice with linking between the two Sections.

The workshops will be open to all Leaders, Commissioners, Unit and Scout Network Chairpersons and will be free to participate in. Prior to the workshops the UK Adviser will write to you to see if you have any specific needs that can be built into the programme. Dates and venues will be published in the spring of 2008.

The Queen's Scout Award

Many thanks to the Leaders, Commissioners and Queen's Scouts for their input into the online survey looking at ways in which we can further support participants of the Queen's Scout Award.

The feedback came up with some interesting findings. Most of those who responded said that there was enough information available to support Members working on the Award. However, there were also a large number of people who felt that those responsible for implementing the Queen's Scout Award did not have the right support material and that the material was not clear. As this work moves forward we will be using the information gathered to create guidance that is more user friendly and accessible for those responsible for supporting the Queen's Scout Award.

The Scout Network Supplement

It is now over two years since the launch of the Scouting magazine supplement and in that time we have seen many changes. Our current co-ordinator, Lee Allwood, is keen to ensure that it is up to date and relevant for our members. To this end he will be publishing an online questionnaire for the readers to complete and let him know where the insert can be improved. To take part in the survey go to www.scouts.org.uk/network and follow the links.

Scout Network Workshops 2007

The current round of Scout Network Support Workshops finished in December 2007 with two very successful workshops in the East and West Midlands. The days were a great success with all participants going away with enthusiasm to continue

the huge growth seen after the Scout Network Review Implementation Workshops in late 2006.

We are keen to assist Counties and Areas in implementing any development initiatives that were agreed at the workshops or elsewhere – see below!

What support is available to you?

The Scout Network team is willing and able to support any local support events you have organised - be this through running the day or weekend programme, delivering specific sessions as required or visiting to answer any questions that are raised. As our diary is already filling up for 2008 we generally need six months notice to organise for members of the team to be present. Please get in touch with Ed Wilson if you are not sure what help/support we can offer, we are very happy to discuss your needs.

The Scout Network Webpages

The Scout Network has dedicated webpages that we try to have as much relevant information on as possible. We are always looking for new material and articles to put online, as well as programme ideas and events that you are running.

To get items published please send your ideas to scout.network@scout.org.uk.

The Scout Network also has a growing presence on Programmes Online. You can download everything from short time fillers to a ready-made Programme. Activities include all sorts from short games, to environmental projects and building boats. You can access Programmes Online at:

www.scouts.org.uk/pol.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Workshops

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Support Days will be held in the spring of 2008. Please see the link below for more details and the booking form.

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/dofe/news/index.htm>

The workshop will give participants the chance to get more familiar with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award criteria, while exploring how we ensure that we offer both Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards at the same time.

Your Programme, Your Voice

The UK Programme Team are in the process of introducing a regular online survey to act as a sounding board for specific areas of the Programme. Randomly selected members of the Movement will be invited to take part in 'Your Programme, Your Voice' surveys about every three months. The Cub Scout Section has been chosen to pilot the scheme, and we will be rolling it out to other Sections as soon as possible. We are encouraging Leaders to share the questions with others in their teams, and be as honest as possible with their responses. Summary feedback will be given to all of those taking part, and shared where appropriate. The information gathered will be used to develop Programme support in the future.

Activity eNews

If you want the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/jan08.pdf and view their latest eNewsletter.

And finally....

Thank you for reading the third edition of Scout Network eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know.



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