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## Going for Gold

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The strapline for the Scout Section in 2008 is 'Going for Gold' and you can expect to be hearing a lot more about this in the coming months through the Scout Supplement and future editions of eNews.

With the changes to the route to the Chief Scout's Gold Award, you will have noticed that Scouts now need to gain eight Challenges across all six Programme Zones. We would like to increase the number of Chief Scout's Gold Awards being awarded, as this is now a true mark of experiencing a Balanced Programme as a Scout.

We value your support in promoting the changes and encouraging Scouts in your County/Area to *Go for Gold*.

Some of the requirements to the Challenges have changed to make them more accessible and easier to complete. We appreciate that some Leaders may not be used to delivering certain Challenges, so we ask for your cooperation in promoting the Going for Gold message and supporting the delivery of a Balanced Programme.

If we can be of any assistance in supporting you to promote this message through events or meetings, please get in touch in by 'phone or email as below.

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## Programme Zones

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We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the changes to Programme Zones in the Scout Section, which are so subtle they may have been missed in reading the December/January Scout Supplement.

Six Zones remain, but the Scoutcraft and Adventure Zone is now *Outdoor and Adventure* and the Exploring Beliefs and Attitudes Zone is now simply *Beliefs and Attitudes*. The boundaries and definitions of these Zones have not changed, and Scoutcraft activities continue to play an important part in the Outdoor and Adventure Zone.

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## Programme Resources

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Hopefully you will have already ordered the new Section Resources for both adults and young people. These will be distributed from the beginning of February, and we appreciate your support in communicating their existence to Leaders in your County/Area.

A new type of resource, aimed at Scouts, is the set of 12 *Scout Skills Cards*. These cover a range of topics, including Emergency Aid, fire lighting, aircraft recognition, communication and lashings.

They are designed to fit in the pocket and act as a handy reference for use during camps, activities or Troop Meetings. We are keen to get feedback on this new format from Scouts and Leaders alike. Please spread the word and let us know how they are being received.

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## A New Challenge

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The introduction of the Promise Challenge brings with it clearer guidance on how to deliver activities in the Beliefs and Attitudes Zone.

The requirements allow for the Challenge to be delivered in a variety of ways. When you hear how Scouts have been completing their Promise Challenge in the next twelve months, do feed back to the Scout Office, so that we are able to develop the award in the future.

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## New Factsheet

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[Geocaching](#) is the fastest growing Scout activity, with GPS technology being used more and more for navigation. With this in mind, a new alternative was added to the Navigator Activity Badge, and a new factsheet is being introduced to the *Scout Skills* series to support those using GPS in their programmes.

The factsheet – *Scout Skills: GPS Navigation* (FS315089) – will be available from the Scout Information Centre or online shortly at

[http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/#sec\\_30](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/#sec_30)

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## Challenge 100

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This was a huge success for the Section in 2007, with 22,000 Scouts nationwide taking part. We hope to build on its success with a similar initiative in the near future but would like to hear from Scout Troops about how Challenge 100 was for them. Were the activities well pitched? Were they appropriately supported? Was the method of registering and recording achievement easy to use? Do you have ideas for the next event? Anything else you want to add? The address for feedback is:

[webmaster@challenge100.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@challenge100.org.uk)

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## Home Contacts

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The Home Contact system has been in place for a number of years – it was designed in a world before mobile phones and other modern communications. We are currently looking at our procedures for this and would welcome any feedback on what you or Leaders around you think about the system. Please let us know at: [scout@scout.org.uk](mailto:scout@scout.org.uk) – preferably before the end of March 2008.

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## Activity eNews

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

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## Scouts ... Taking the Lead

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This resource is still available for free to download at [www.scouts.org.uk/takingthelead](http://www.scouts.org.uk/takingthelead). It contains many Programme ideas designed to develop Scouts' Leadership Skills. Although we know that many Counties/Areas and Districts have used the pack to plan Leadership Courses, it is also suitable to support activities in Scout Troops, both in regular meetings and over longer time periods.

Feedback from users of *Taking the Lead* is welcomed as we look to develop this resource.

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## Your Programme, Your Voice

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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 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.

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## Finally...

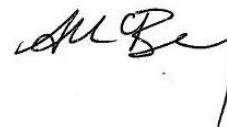
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Thank you for reading the third edition of Scout eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know.



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