
Introduction

Welcome to the sixth edition of Activities eNews. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest developments and opportunities within Activities. It is being emailed to ACCs/AACs Activities, County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers and those with Activities appointments. It will also be available on the Activities pages of ScoutBase UK.

Home Contact Review

As you may be aware, we are currently conducting a review of the Home Contact system. Following the responses we received from an initial round of consultation the review group has put together a consultation document. This consultation document is available for all to view, and we would welcome comments on this from anyone who wishes to contribute:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/homecontact.pdf

Support Assessors

We are looking to recruit a volunteer project leader to support County Assessors in their role. The role involves developing support and support networks for County Assessors. This is likely to involve (although not limited to) the designing and delivering of Assessor workshops, and the development of resources to allow for Assessor workshops and Assessor support locally. Technical activity knowledge is not a requirement, but experience in training would be a benefit.

Details and further information are available on ScoutBase UK at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/jobs/volunteer.htm

Money Money Money

The Development Grants Board has made funding available towards the cost of attending an activity permit assessment course and associated travel costs. County Assessors can also now get funding towards travel costs of their assessment courses in addition to the course costs that have been available for a number of years:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/funding.htm

Climbing and Cycling Helmets

There has recently been work done on our requirements regarding the wearing of helmets during cycling and climbing for Sikhs wearing turbans. There has now been agreement for a change of wording that clarifies that the wearing of helmets is a requirement for cycling and climbing (in the circumstances that it was before), except in the case of Sikhs wearing turbans who can decide personally whether they wish to wear a helmet. This change will appear in the next issue of POR.

Hovercrafting Relaunch

Following consultation with the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain (HCGB) we are floating some changes to the way in which Hovercrafting is operated within Scouting. Hovercrafting will be incorporated into the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme with a transition period lasting until January 2010 to enable Assessors to be trained and appointed. Full details can on ScoutBase UK at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/factfile.php?ID=29

A Big Hello

We have two new members of the UK Activities Team to welcome. Ben Julian has joined as the UKTA for Dinghy Sailing, while on the professional side Nicola Ashby has joined as a P&D Adviser alongside Barney and Jess.

Both can be contacted via Gilwell Park. Details can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/naas.htm

AAIAC

The Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC) is an advisory body that issues guidance mainly in those areas that fall outside the Adventurous Activity Licensing Service (AALS (previously AALA)). To help with our ongoing work with external organisations we would like to hear of your experiences with AAIAC. Have you heard of AAIAC? Has its work filtered through to you? Have you been asked about AAIAC codes of practice when supplying activities externally? Please email us at activities@scout.org.uk

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Dohoo (UK Technical Adviser for Shooting) who has been recognised by the National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA). John has been awarded the Silver Special Service Award for his service to shooting.

Fellowship Going Underground

Over the weekend of 14 – 16 November there is an opportunity for adults in Scouting to join in a caving trip in South Wales. In addition to this there will be a meeting on the Saturday night looking at the possibility of forming a National Caving Fellowship. Full details from idriswilliams@aol.com

UK Snowsports Awards

The governing bodies for snowsports in Scotland, England and Wales have launched a unified qualifications pathway covering coaching, leading and instructing awards. UK Snowsports will eventually replace all existing qualifications. Full details can be found in the UK Snowsports press release:

www.snowsportengland.org.uk/uk_snowsports_coach_award_scheme_press_release-2795.html

Permit Scheme Rolling Review

A reminder that there is an ongoing rolling review of the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme. If you have any thoughts or comments about any specific activities, assessment checklists, factsheets or forms supporting the scheme then please send them in to us. They will then be considered the next time the activity involved is reviewed. Comments should be sent to activities@scout.org.uk

National Support

A quick reminder that members of the UK Activities Team are very happy to visit Regions, Counties or Districts to provide support, run presentations, answer questions etc, for any area of activities. For more information email Barney Poulton, Jess Kelly and Nicola Ashby at activities@scout.org.uk

Factsheet Updates

Details of new and updated factsheets and assessment checklists over the past few months can be found on their dedicated web page at:

www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates

Diary Dates

Below are listed a number of activity events taking place in 2008. Many of these allow novice levels to take part without the need to bring specialist activity equipment. The fact that we are advertising them does not mean that these events are necessarily vetted or endorsed by The Scout Association nationally. For a full and up to date list of activity events and dates please see:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm

Sussex Downsman Hike

Buriton - near Petersfield, Hampshire

4 October 2008

www.downsman.com

Apex Extreme

Ilkley Moor, West Yorkshire

10 - 12 October 2008

www.apexchallenge.co.uk

National Scout Rifle Championships 2008

National Shooting Centre - Bisley

17 - 19 October 2008

www.scouts-shoot.org.uk/nsarc2k8

National Sedan Chair Rally

Tolmers, Hertfordshire

24 - 26 October 2008

www.sedanchair.org.uk

And Finally...

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



Andrew Wellbeloved
UK Commissioner
for Programme



Linda Thelwell
UK Adviser (Activities)