

Introduction

Welcome to this first Scout eNews from the Programme Team at Gilwell Park. It is designed to inform you about what is going on with the Scout Section across the United Kingdom as well as provide information that is relevant to the leadership and management of the Scout Section.

Firstly, Alasdair McBay has been appointed as the UK Adviser (Scouts). Over the past few years, Alasdair has been the Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts in Greater London Middlesex West as well as a member of the National Scout Support Team.

Over the coming months, Alasdair will be putting together a plan for supporting the Section in conjunction with his fellow UK Advisers. The plan will be developed with the UK Commissioner for Programme, the new Regional Advisers and staff at Gilwell Park. If you would like to speak to him or one of the Scout Team please make contact using the details at the foot of the page.

Regional Advisers

Now that Alasdair has been appointed, the next task is to find volunteer Regional and Country Advisers for each of the eight English Regions and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These people will be appointed by United Kingdom Headquarters primarily to support Assistant County/Area Commissioners (and equivalent roles).

Full details of the volunteer roles and the application process (for the eight Regions in England) can be found at...

www.scouts.org.uk/noticeboard/2007/March07/090307.html

Information for the Country Adviser roles in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be available shortly.

Challenge 100

Challenge 100 is a national competition for the Scout Section that has been running since January as part of Join in Centenary. Over 3,500 Patrols

competed in the 100-minute challenge, eager to win the VIP day trip to the 21st World Scout Jamboree.

By the time you read this, the top 100 Patrols in the first stage of Challenge 100 will be busy working away to complete the second stage: 100 Challenges in 100 Days. These range from eating 100 baked beans with a toothpick to completing a 100 hour survival exercise.

By popular demand, the content of the 100 Challenges is now available online. You can incorporate the challenges into a County/Area event, run some of them at Centenary Camps, or set your own challenge from within your own local community. The 100 Challenges will also be appearing in the April/May issue of the Scouting Magazine Scout supplement, so that Leaders will be able to attempt them with their Troops.

The 100 Challenges can be found at...

www.scouts.org.uk/challenge100

Programmes Online

Programmes Online celebrates its first birthday this month. Over the last twelve months, this programme planning tool has grown into a comprehensive library of over 1500 activities that will help Leaders plan Scout programmes. Programmes Online is different to any other online library of programme ideas in that it provides the all the necessary resources to support the delivery of the programme. For example, if the activity is a pioneering project with Scouts, construction diagrams, images, etc. are provided. This hopefully reduces the time a Leader spends sourcing appropriate material.

It is pleasing that Programmes Online won the Voluntary Sector Project of the Year category at the 2006 Computing Awards. In addition it was Highly Commended in the Knowledge Management Project Award category at the British Computer Society Information Management Awards.

Programmes Online is also enabling the United Kingdom Programme Team to deliver support material on specific subjects and with the delivery of Award and Badge requirements (such as the two new Staged Activity Badges – Hikes Away and Emergency Aid – and the recently launched Join in Centenary material).

There is always a need for new content on Programmes Online. We are encouraging our Leaders who have many years experience in running programmes to submit their excellent ideas to Programmes Online and share them with fellow Leaders.

It would be of help if you could continue to publicise Programmes Online in your Counties/Areas and Districts, both in terms of Leaders using the system to plan programmes and to submit tried and tested ideas that work well with young people.

If you would like support with publicising Programmes Online, a member of the Programme Team from Gilwell Park would be happy to help with an interactive presentation. If you feel this would be of benefit please contact Elis Matthews in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (using the details at the foot of the page).

To access Programmes Online visit...

www.scouts.org.uk/pol

Scouts...Taking the Lead

As a reminder, 'Scouts...Taking the Lead' is a resource full of activities and programme ideas to promote leadership in the Scout Troop. To date, the resource has received favourable feedback from Leaders and we are keen that more Leaders make use of it. The resource is available from the Scout Information Centre and can be downloaded at...

www.scouts.org.uk/takingthelead

Join in Centenary

Join in Centenary packs were sent out to all Scout Groups in September 2006. All Scout Troops should now have their Join in Centenary pack and we hope that they are of use to Leaders. If Troops have not received the pack, Leaders should contact their Group Scout Leader in the first instance. If further assistance is required in order to obtain a copy, please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

To date a number of positive comments have been received from Leaders throughout the United Kingdom about the pack. A number of Leaders have also been letting us know what activities they have planned for the centenary year.

Further resource material is available to support the delivery of the activities in the Join in Centenary from Programmes Online at...

www.scouts.org.uk/pol

Enter the search criteria "centenary" in the keywords field to find material.

Supporting ACC/AACs

Due to the already incredibly busy year for the Movement in 2007, we have decided not to offer the Assistant County/Area Commissioner Information Day as in previous years. However, if you are a new ACC/AAC Scouts and feel you would benefit from an informal induction, Elis Matthews in the Programme Team at Gilwell Park (who can be contacted using the details at the foot of the page) is happy to arrange this for you and to discuss your role and needs, any plans you might have and national initiatives that can support the work you do.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

You may be aware that The Scout Association has entered a partnership with the Sainsbury's Active Kids programme. Scout Groups can register to receive programme support material (that can be used in Section meetings) and can collect vouchers that can be redeemed for equipment and materials from the Active Kids catalogue.

Full information can be found at...

www.scouts.org.uk/scoutingplus/301106/301106.htm

Finally...

Thank you for reading the first 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 me know.



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