

# The 6-25 Programme



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The Scout Association has a continuous programme that aims to promote the growth and development of young people aged 6 – 25. By working through the five sections, the programme can be delivered in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the young people in each age range, and builds on what has gone before.

## A Firm Foundation.

At the heart of the programme are six programme zones for the Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout sections and three self development areas for the Scout Network. Leaders help young people to grow and develop in each of these areas through their involvement in the balanced programme. The balanced programme therefore provides the framework for the week by week meetings and all the other activities that Scouts of any age can take part in.

## It's all about participation

The balanced programme is all about joining in and participating and has two essential components:

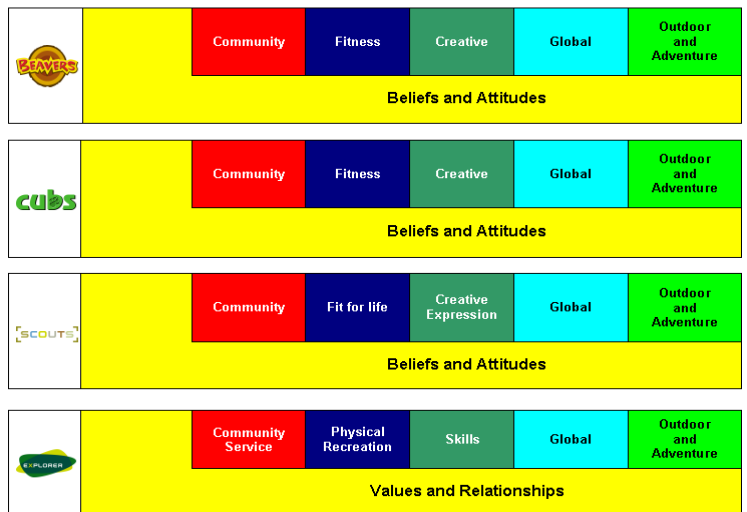
### The Programme Zones

These are essentially areas of activity. The zones cover activities such as outdoors, community, fitness, international and beliefs and attitudes. Leaders, planning their section's programme, need to visit each zone regularly to ensure they deliver a programme that is balanced. Sometimes

the meeting night or event will cover activities from just one zone, while some meetings will draw activities from a variety of zones. There is no specific list of activities that need to be included in each zone.

Leaders are free to select activities that they feel are appropriate and will appeal to the young people in their section.

The 6 programme zones are:



### Self Development Areas (SDAs)

These are the areas of activity that should be used when planning the Scout Network programme. They work in the same way as the zones for younger sections. Each SDA has a set of objectives that provide guidance when undertaking activities within a particular area.

### The Scout Association

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The 3 SDAs are:

- International
- Community
- Skills and development

### **The methods**

Each section has a range of methods that help leaders explore each Zone in an imaginative way. While they vary slightly from section to section, most include methods that will involve using games, making things, going on visits, helping others, using the outdoors and following themes. The range of methods helps to bring as much variety into the programme as possible.

### **Badges**

#### **Membership Award**

The Membership Award prepares a young person to join Scouting and is common to all sections. The Award is presented when the young person makes or reaffirms their Promise.

#### **Joining In Awards and Participation Awards**

For taking part in the programme young people receive a special badge, which is awarded on the anniversary of their first joining Scouting. It is a chance to celebrate what has been achieved through their involvement in the programme. In the Beaver Scout and Cub Scout sections this is called the Joining-In Award, while in the Scout and Explorer Scout sections it is known as the Participation Award.

### **Challenges**

Every section has a number of Challenge Awards. They grow naturally from the activities in the programme zones, and challenge the young people to use the skills they have learnt. By undertaking a challenge either individually or as a

member of a group, members can earn a Challenge Award in the Colony, Pack or Troop. The Challenges in the Unit coincide closely with the DofE Award. Challenges are the route to the 'top' Award in each section.

### **The Chief Scout's Award**

All of the Sections have a top or key award. For Beaver Scouts, the top award is the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. To achieve this, a Beaver Scout will need to have gained all six Challenges. The top Award for a Cub Scout is the Chief Scout's Silver Award, given when the Cub Scout gains six of the seven Challenge Awards. Scouts need to achieve eight Challenges (two of which need to be the the Outdoor Plus Challenge, the Adventure Challenge or the Expedition Challenge) to gain the Chief Scout's Gold Award. In the Explorer Scout section they can achieve the Chief Scout's Platinum Award and, along with the Scout Network Section, the Chief Scout's Diamond Award and the Queen's Scout Award.

### **Activity Badges**

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts all have a range of Activity Badges. While these are an optional part of the programme, they can be used to complement and extend the balanced programme. In addition there are six Staged Activity Badges that can be gained by any Scout under 18 years at any time. They are; Emergency Aid, Hikes Away, Information Technology, Musician, Nights Away and Swimmer.

### **Partnership Awards**

Partnership Awards are yet another way of helping leaders to achieve a Balanced Programme. They can only be achieved by members from two or more sections working in partnership with each other or a section working together with an external organisation. There are

three Awards: the International Award, the Environment Award and the Faith Award. There is considerable flexibility in what can be achieved, but the Partnership Award must include a project that is worked on over a period of three to six months.

### **Moving-on Awards**

This introduces a young person to the activities and programme of the next section, and members will normally begin the Award during their final six months in their current section. It includes the requirements of the Membership Award, so once achieved, there is nothing further to do to become a member of their new section.