

A Queen's Scout



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The ultimate training Award for members of Explorer Scouts and Scout Network is the Queen's Scout Award. It requires extremely high standards of self-discipline, leadership and achievement in activities, interests and community service. It helps build confidence for the individual while they are having fun.

Although available only to the young men and women of the two senior sections, preparation towards attaining the Award begins at whatever age young people join the Movement and commence the progressive training scheme.

Progressive Training

Training in the Movement is designed to suit the young person's age and experience. Members of all five sections participate in a Balanced Programme, made up of different Programme Zones, Methods of Learning and Underlying Themes.

Beaver Scouts (6-8), Cub Scouts (8-10½) and Scouts (10 ½ -14) all work within the Programme towards targets specific to their section. They

have the opportunity to gain Joining In or Participation Awards, Challenge Badges, Activity Badges and Group Awards. At the same time, they can work towards the Chief Scout's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, whichever is the top award in their respective section.

At all levels, the Chief Scout's Award requires Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts to complete a number of the Challenges available in their section. There are 16 Challenges in total, with 3 available to Beavers, 5 to Cubs and 8 to Scouts. Each corresponds to an important area of development for young people. Examples include Friendship, Fitness and Community.

Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts must also complete a personal challenge if they are to gain the award. This usually involves starting to learn a new skill, talent or hobby. The young person must demonstrate a measure of improvement in their chosen activity and a definite commitment towards their new hobby.

At 14, a Scout can become an Explorer Scout and continue in the Section until aged 18, as do many young men and women in this age range who enter direct. Explorer Scouting is delivered in

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a variety of ways, and a young person could be a member of a Camp Site Support Team, a Young Leaders Unit, a 'normal' Explorer Scout Unit or indeed, a member of all three.

When a young person joins Explorer Scouts at 14, they start working towards their Chief Scout's Platinum Award. This builds upon the skills and experiences that they may already have gained in the younger sections. Again, the Award involves four core strands: Skills, Physical Recreation, Community Service and an Expedition. Having gained the Platinum Award, the young person moves on to work towards their Diamond Award. This involves the application of similar skills and values, but requires a higher level of commitment.

Both of these awards, as well as the Queen's Scout Award, are designed to complement the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The Queen's Scout Award is comparable to the Gold Standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The two programmes can be completed at the same time, if an Explorer Scout registers for the Duke of Edinburgh Award when starting their Queen's Scout Award. The same activities then count for each award. However, to gain their award, a Queen's Scout must complete a values-based programme, as well as the common requirements for both awards.

Queen's Scout Award

Possession of the Diamond Chief Scout's Award is not a prerequisite for achieving the Queen's Scout Award. However, a direct entrant to the Queen's Scout Award would take slightly longer to complete the award, as they would be required to demonstrate the required levels of commitment and self-discipline. The Queen's Scout Award is

based on very similar principles to both the Platinum and Diamond Awards but considerably higher standards are set and self-reliance and personal initiative are even more important.

Explorer Scouts plan many of their activities themselves and develop and carry out their programmes through a decision-making forum involving both Explorer Scouts and Leaders.

Young men and women accept exactly the same conditions and this applies when qualifying for the Queen's Scout Award as in all else.

Having fulfilled the practical requirements, the candidate must satisfy the District Explorer Scout Commissioner as being worthy to receive this greatly prized Award. However, if an Explorer Scout does not complete all the necessary requirements for their Award before they are 18, they can continue these in Scout Network.

Royal Certificate

The Award insignia, a gold crown, is worn as a cloth badge on uniform and a lapel pin with every day clothes. As befits the achievement, the presentation of the Award is always a special occasion, often held locally but, twice a year, in the form of a Chief Scout's Reception in a prestigious venue.

Every Queen's Scout receives a Royal certificate bearing this message from Her Majesty:

'As a Queen's Scout you have prepared yourself for service to God and other people, and have shown yourself a worthy Member of the world-wide SCOUT MOVEMENT. I wish you God-speed on your journey through life; may it prove for you a joyous adventure'.

Elizabeth R

The standard of the Queen's Scout Award is high with choice only in the manner of attainment in order to suit the candidate's interest and talents. Great personal effort, determination and self-discipline over a considerable period are needed and it may be justly claimed that this achievement is now harder than at any previous time.

National Scout Service

It is a Queen Scout's privilege to be chosen to attend the annual National Scout Service and St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle on the Sunday nearest to St George's Day. King George V granted this privilege some 25 years after the King's Scout Award was originally introduced by King Edward VII. The first Parade was in 1934 when the King, with Queen Mary, the Duke and Duchess of York and the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, took the Salute.

There have been few occasions since then when a member of the Royal Family has not been present. The first appearance of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, following her father's death, was at the St George's Parade in 1952 and she has since paid the Queen's Scouts this high honour on many other occasions. In 1967 she was accompanied by Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne. In 1997 Her Majesty reviewed the parade on the day before her 71st birthday. Most recently in 2002, the Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip, reviewed the Parade on her birthday in her Golden Jubilee Year.

During her reign, the Parade has also been honoured at different times by the presence of both the late HM The Queen Mother and HRH The Princess Margaret. The Duke of Kent, who is

the President of The Scout Association, has also attended.

Every effort is made to ensure that a Queen's Scout's visit to the Windsor review is as memorable as possible. It is the ultimate recognition of the commitment and hard work that a Queen's Scout has to make to gain their award.