

Decision Making in the Scout Network



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Introduction

The aim of the Scout Association is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of young people, so that they may take a constructive role in society.

This is accomplished through the delivery of a Balanced Programme, which young people experience between the ages of 6-25. As young people move through the programme, they are given more responsibility for decision making. Early experiences in the Beaver Scout Colony, Cub Scout Pack, participation in the Patrol System of the Scout Troop and the varied groupings in the Explorer Scout Section lead to the experience of self-management in the Scout Network. This promotes the ideas of democracy, leadership and teamwork.

There are three main forums for decision making within the Scout Network; :

- Each individual Scout Network
- The County/Area Scout Network Committee
- The County/Area Scout Network Conference.

Individual Scout Networks

Decision making in individual Scout Networks will be by the members, with guidance and support from their local Scout Network Leader/Commissioner

In larger Networks, it may be necessary to appoint a committee to oversee the running of the Scout Network. However this is organised, it's crucial that there is a system in place that allows for all of the members of the Scout Network to be part of the overall decision-making.

There should be an elected Chairperson of each Scout Network and possibly a

secretary/administrator along with any other officers the Scout Network feels necessary.

It is usually appropriate for the Scout Network Chairperson of a particular Scout Network to be that Network's representative on the County/Area Scout Network Committee. However, another designated Scout Network Member might carry out that role if time commitments prevent the Chairperson from doing so.

Details of the Role of the Scout Network Chairperson can be found on www.scouts.org.uk/network

The County/Area Scout Network Committee

The County/Area Scout Network Committee should decide on its structure according to local circumstances. However, there must be a County / Area Scout Network Chairperson, whose role is to work in conjunction with the County/Area Scout Network Commissioner to co-ordinate Scout Network activities in a County or Area.

Other officers can be elected to the County/Area Scout Network Committee as necessary. Key positions might include a Secretary and Treasurer.

There needs to be representation on the committee from all of the local Scout Networks in the County/Area and all members should have a chance to influence the agenda of the committee. The committee should agree the programme for the County/Area Scout Network, and this needs to be communicated to all of the individual members. It is the responsibility of the whole committee to

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regularly review the programme offered to Scout Network Members across the County/Area.

Scout Network Leaders and Commissioners do not necessarily have the right of attendance at the County/Area Scout Network Committee Meeting although it is generally good practice for them to attend to advise the Committee rather than run it. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to make sure that everyone is aware of the date and venue of these meetings

The County/Area Scout Network Conference

The County/Area Scout Network Conference meets once a year to celebrate and review the achievements of the Scout Network. It should involve all members as well as the County/Area Scout Network Commissioner and all Scout Network Leaders.

Members of County/Area Scout Network Committee are elected at the Conference.

Whatever kind of event the Network decides on, it should be fun and interesting and could take place during a social occasion or activity. It is the chance for all members to have their say on the future programme of the Network in their County/Area. Members should influence the decision-making and be encouraged to take responsibility for the decisions taken.