

Young Leaders' Scheme

The Young Leaders' Scheme is just one of the exciting programme elements in the Explorer Scout section. All leaders in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section who are between the ages of 14 and 18 must be members of an Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Unit. They are Explorer Scouts who choose to devote a large proportion of their time in Scouting to service in another section.

The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals. It allows them to make a valuable contribution to their community and give service to others. The scheme also helps them fulfil the service elements of their awards.



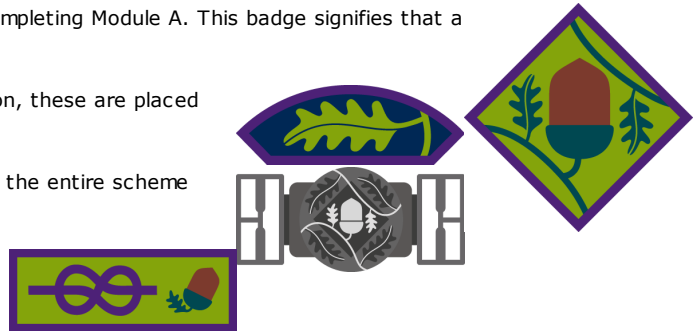
Recognition

A Young Leaders' Badge and woggle should be awarded after completing Module A. This badge signifies that a Young Leader has completed their basic training.

A mission strip should be presented after completing each mission, these are placed around the module A badge

A Young Leader belt buckle should be awarded on completion of the entire scheme (completion of ALL training modules and missions).

The Young Leader Service Award can be worn on the adult uniform to recognise a person's completion of the Young Leaders' Scheme.



The Young Leader certificate should be presented when the Young Leader either turns 18 or completes the whole scheme. The back of the certificate can be used to record which modules and missions the Young Leader has completed.

Core resources to support the scheme

Preparing to Lead: Delivering the Young Leaders' Scheme

This is the handbook for every adult volunteer delivering the Young Leaders' Scheme. A self contained guide to delivering the training, it provides a full breakdown of all modules and practical activities for bringing the learning to life.

- 120 page step by step guide to delivering the scheme
- Contains trainer notes and practical tips
- Appendices with additional information including the Fundamentals of Scouting and leadership styles

Young Leaders' Pocket Book – Onwards and Upwards

The complete guide to being a Young Leader, this pocket book for young people explains what to expect during training and in the role itself. As well as tips from other Young Leaders, it outlines the opportunities, skills and rewards for taking part in the scheme.

- Pocket size
- 28 pages full colour
- Everything in one place

[Young Leader's Scheme - log book](#)

Young Leaders - Information for Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Leaders

Also available is a factsheet called Young Leaders - Information for Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Leaders. This factsheet outlines to section leaders the role that they can expect Young Leaders to play in their leadership team.

Young Leaders' Scheme - additional resources

[Guide to Opening a Young Leader Unit](#) ([/documents/DocumentUpload/June2013/RDS Guide To Opening YLU.pdf](#))

[Planning a Young Leader training weekend](#) ([/documents/DocumentUpload/June2013/RDS Planning A YL Training Weekend.pdf](#))

[Young Leader placement agreement](#) ([/documents/DocumentUpload/June2013/J915 RDS Young Leaders Placement Agreement JUNE.3.pdf](#))



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Young Leaders' Scheme: information for other sections

This is a broad overview of the Young Leaders' Scheme. It will help you as a Sectional Leader to understand the concepts behind the Scheme and its benefits for you and your Section.

What is the Young Leaders' Scheme?

The Young Leader scheme is an ongoing programme of training, designed to enable Young Leaders to work effectively in the Section that they choose.

Who can take part in the scheme?

Explorer Scouts aged between 14 to 18 years can become Young Leaders. They can help in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, and Scout Sections. Young Leaders are still Explorer Scouts and are encouraged to take part in the Balanced Programme provided by their District. They are also members of the District Young Leaders Unit.

Why do Explorer Scouts become Young Leaders?

Explorer Scouts become Young Leaders to:

- gain the knowledge, skills and confidence required to become an effective Leader
- further their own personal development
- work towards other Awards for example Duke of Edinburgh
- acquire the skills that are needed for the Adult Training Scheme
- have fun!

It is important to remember that these young people have the potential to be the Leaders of the future.

Should you support the scheme?

Young Leaders partake in a voluntary training scheme comprising a number of modules and project work. Examples of these include Programme Planning and First Aid. All Explorer Scouts are awarded Certificates of Achievement for participation in a Balanced Programme (like the Joining-in Award). They may also gain this certificate for their involvement in special projects, which may include being a Young Leader in a Section.

As a Sectional Leader you may be asked to sign off various elements of Awards that the young person is working towards or provide evidence for qualifications, such as NVQ's.

Your responsibility as a Section Leader

While a Young Leader is working in a Section, the Section Leader is responsible for their safety and welfare. The Section Leader however must ensure that the Young Leader becomes a real part of the Leadership team and is given real responsibility.

If the Young Leader takes part in any residential or adventurous activities you should always obtain their parent or carer's permission. Consideration should also be given to the sleeping arrangements, as the Young Leader is not permitted to share accommodation with either the adult Leaders or the young people in the Section in which they work.

Remember, with the right support and opportunities, Young Leaders can be a valuable part of the Leadership team. They can help provide better Scouting for more young People.

Missions

As part of the Young Leaders' Scheme there are four **Missions** (<https://staging.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/307>) to be completed alongside the 10 Modules. These Missions are designed to allow the Young leaders to put the learning from the Modules into practise. By doing so, they will gain in confidence and become an integral part of the leadership team within their Section and Group.



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Section leader responsibilities

While a Young Leader is working in a section, the section leader is responsible for their safety and welfare.

The section leader however must ensure that the Young Leader becomes a real part of the leadership team and is given meaningful responsibility.

If the Young Leader takes part in any residential or adventurous activities you should always obtain their parent or carer's permission. Consideration should also be given to the sleeping arrangements, as the Young Leader is not permitted to share accommodation with either the adult leaders or the young people in the section in which they work.

Remember, with the right support and opportunities, Young Leaders can be a valuable part of the leadership team. They can help provide better Scouting for more young people.

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Young Leaders and their old Troop

Often Young Leaders want to return to help out at their old Scout Troop

This is fine, but we recommend that Young Leaders should not return to the Troop until at least six months have passed since their departure.

This will allow the older Scouts to get used to their new roles in the Troop, and ensure that the Young Leader does not simply consider themselves to be an older Scout but understands they are now part of the Leadership team.

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You should complete Module A (Prepare for take off) of the Young Leaders' Scheme by:.....

.....
(Starting Young Leaders) Date card issued:.....
You must have your own copy of this guidance before you start being a Young Leader, even if you are just trying out the role.
It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.



Young People First Guidance for Young Leaders

What happens if...?

A young person tells you about abuse by someone else:

1. allow the young person to talk without interruption, just accept what is said
2. tell the young person that you treat what has been said seriously but you must pass it on to an adult Leader
3. immediately tell an adult Leader
4. make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same Leader

If you have a concern about a young person or you get a complaint about anyone, including yourself:

1. immediately tell an adult Leader
2. make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same Leader

Code of behaviour

- DO** put this code in to practice at all times
- DO** treat everyone with respect
- DO** treat all young people equally - show no favouritism
- DO** plan activities with more than one other person present, or at least within sight and hearing of others
- DO** avoid situations that could affect relationships within the group (e.g. a relationship between a Young Leader and a youth member)
- DO** have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, Young Leaders and adults
- DO** allow young people to talk about any concerns they have
- DO** encourage others to talk freely about attitudes or behaviours they don't like
- DO** steer clear of inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. flirting, crushes, tantrums, etc.
- DO** remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse
- DO** remember this code when sending texts, emails, making phone calls and using the internet
- DO** tell adult Leaders where you are and what you are doing at all times
- DO** remember someone else might misunderstand your behaviour, however well meant
- DON'T** trivialise abuse
- DON'T** allow bullying
- DON'T** engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact e.g. play fights, insults, obscene gestures
- DON'T** get involved in physical contact games with young people, even if you are running them
- DON'T** make threats or suggestive or offensive remarks to a young person, even in fun
- DON'T** drink alcohol on Scouting activities
- DON'T** let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported
- DON'T** believe 'it'll never happen to me'