

Young Leader Scheme



Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Scheme- An Overview

ESYLs are Explorer Scouts who volunteer alongside adult leaders in a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. A valuable asset to any leadership team, ESYLs play an active role in the section, bringing a range of fresh ideas to the table, and acting as positive role models for the young people they work alongside.

Scouts can request to return to their old Scout Troop to volunteer as a YL. However, it is highly recommended that they have a break of 12 months before doing this. This extra time allows them to develop their skills, and gives the old Troop extra time to accept and adjust to the fact they are now a YL with different responsibilities. Having a reasonable gap will mean that the ESYL won't just be seen as another Senior Patrol Leader when they return and are supporting their peers.

Becoming a Young Leader

A young person can be an Explorer from the age of 13.5 but cannot register as a Young Leader or start their training until they are 14.

If a young person from either inside or outside Scouting wants to help for DofE or become a young leader, they cannot do so until they are 14. This has caused some confusion recently as a number of schools start DofE during year 9 (when the students are 13-14) Even if they are just helping for DofE, then they must be registered as a young leader (email Sheila Davies)

Having spoken to headquarters, this is what they advise in conjunction with POR. If you have any queries please ask me or the DC.

The Scheme

The YL training scheme contains 11 modules and four missions for ESYLs to work through whilst volunteering in their chosen section.

Modules give ESYLs the skills and knowledge to be successful in their role, while missions allow them to put everything into practice with support. The modules run once a month, with the YLs' being invited by OSM - this means no one does a module twice! The modules role year on year so if a young person misses a module, I simply add them to the list for the next time I run the module (although it will be about another year)

I keep records on OSM so please ask if you need any information about a young leader.

Module A

Module A must be completed before any other Modules.

It runs every term and covers the really important stuff (safeguarding, child protection, POR, risk assessments etc)

It is essential that ALL Young Leaders (even those just helping for DofE) attend.

By making sure that every young leader is registered on OSM (Send the details to Sheila Davies - District Explorer Secretary), we can make sure noone is missed. Attendance to Module A is mandatory and a certificate is given to prove their attendance.

The Scheme

As well as developing valuable life skills, the Scheme is an opportunity for ESYLs to make a positive impact in their communities and to fulfil the service elements of many of the top awards in Scouting.

Recognition of achievement is available along the way, and on completion of the Scheme, the ESYL is awarded with an ESYL belt buckle.

As you may be aware, I presented 4 in December 2019, with another 2 due by the end of February 2020.

The Badges



How you can help

Support the Young Leaders in their chosen section by including them in your planning where appropriate, encouraging them to run activities and games, and supporting their development and confidence.

They are given a copy of the 4 missions when they attend the first training module (A) so ask if you can help with them. They are progressive and will need to be completed over a period of time. They will need your guidance and support to organise and run these. I ask each young leader to write a bit about what they have done for each mission so I have evidence to pass on should they become an adult leader when 18. I also make sure each module has time for a Mission catch up should there be any queries.

Any questions

All young leaders have my email address and are encouraged to contact me with any questions.

Although we can support them in achieving their final certificate, they do need to commit to completing the training and missions themselves.

We currently have an amazing team of young leaders - I need your support to encourage them to continue and become the leaders of the future.

I am always on hand to answer any queries and am happy to come to a meeting should you feel you or a young person needs a little more support

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