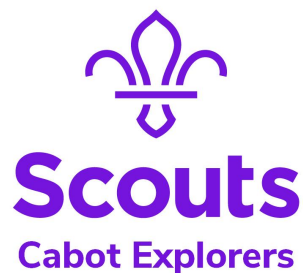


Young Leaders

A Guide for GSLs and Section Leaders



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What is a Young Leader?

Explorer Scout Young Leaders are Explorers who have chosen to volunteer alongside the adult leadership team of a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, or Scout Troop, in order to develop their leadership skills and gain both confidence and experience in applying them.

A Young Leader (YL) is a valuable asset to any leadership team, bringing fresh ideas to the table, and acting as positive role models for the young people in your section - they shouldn't just be there to make tea and squash, but given the chance to progressively take on more responsibilities for running games, activities, and helping to plan and deliver the section's programme, the same as any other leader who joins you.

Who can be a Young Leader?

Any Explorer over the age of 14 can become an Explorer Scout YL, either in addition to their regular Explorer Scouting, or if they choose, as their main involvement with Explorers. All members of Scouting volunteering with a section must be an Explorer Scout, and all Explorer Scout YLs are members of the Young Leaders Unit and so should have the opportunity to participate in District Explorer events and the Explorer programme.

Members from outside of Scouting can volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's or Queen's Guide awards, as explained in [Volunteers from Outside the Movement](#).

Explorers who've recently moved on from Scouts shouldn't go back to volunteer with the section they've just left - a twelve month gap between them moving on and returning to volunteer is advised - this doesn't stop them from volunteering with a younger section in the meantime however.

Responsibilities of the Group

While a YL is working with your group, you and the section leader have a responsibility for their safety and welfare, and it's important to remember that they're still a young person in Scouting regardless of any responsibilities they're given.

In particular, the Yellow Card guidance you use with other young people in the group still applies: adults should never be left one-on-one with a YL, and should copy others into texts or emails sent to them.

When taking part in camps or residential trips, consideration should be given to sleeping arrangements. YLs should be given their own accommodation, and shouldn't share with adult leaders, or with the other young people in the section.

Registering with the Young Leader Unit

All young people volunteering with a section, whether already part of Explorer Scouting, or coming to volunteer from outside the movement, must be registered with the YL Unit.

In most cases this is as easy as you giving our District Explorer Scout Administrator (DESA) their name and which Group/section they will be volunteering with, we can then share the information across to the YL Unit from their current Explorer Unit. We can also share this information with you via OSM, if your group uses it. If the volunteer is coming to you from outside of Scouting, this process is slightly different, please see [Information Required to Join](#), below.

Groups shouldn't create new OSM records for YLs that join them, as there should only ever be one record for an Explorer, so we can ensure the information being held is correct and kept updated.

When a Young Leader leaves your section

When a YL finishes volunteering with you this should also be passed on to the DESA, so we can update the YL Unit records. If the YL has been volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, they will need to get this signed off by the YL team, see [Signing Off](#) below.

Young Leader Subscriptions

We have to pay the District, County, and HQ membership fees for all Explorers we have, and there are also costs associated with running the YL Unit; delivering the training modules; providing adult training for the YL Leaders; and providing YL badges.

Most Explorer Scout YLs will pay their membership subscription as part of their membership of one of our Core Explorer Units. A small number of Explorer Scout YLs are only members of the YL Unit, and so do not pay for membership - their fee is covered by all members in the District, via the annual District Membership Fee.

Explorer Scout YLs are able to take part in the wider Post-14 provision on offer in the District, including District Explorer Events (joint Unit nights, District Camp, Top Awards Celebration Evenings, and attendance at National Scouting Events), our Skills Units (Ten Tors, Duke of Edinburgh, Namaste Nepal), and also have the chance to work on their Scouting Top Awards (Chief Scout's Platinum/Diamond, and the Queen's Scout Award).

Young Leader Training

The YL Training Scheme is broken up into eleven training modules, which are delivered throughout the year by the YL team, as well as four missions to be completed during the YL's time at the section. Explorers who complete all their training and missions are awarded the Young Leader Belt, in recognition of their achievement.



Module A

Module A "Prepare for take-off" is the only compulsory module for most YLs, and covers essential information about safeguarding and child protection all YLs must know, and also explains what is expected of them during their time with you. It must be completed **within the first three months** of them starting to volunteer with your section. On completion of Module A, YLs are awarded the Young Leader Badge.



Further Training

The remaining ten modules offer further training to YLs on everything from dealing with challenging behaviour, to planning a programme and taking the lead. Although not compulsory, it is recommended YLs take part in this training during their time with you as the skills they gain will allow them to take on more responsibility, as well as potentially being recognised externally to Scouting.

YLs who are volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award are required to complete further training during this time, as explained in [Training Requirements](#) below.

Young Leader Missions

The missions allow YLs to put their training into practice with the section, and grow to become a valued part of your leadership team during their time with you. The four missions cover areas that will progressively give a YL the chance to gain confidence in their skills:

- Game** Run several different styles of game for the section.

- Activity** Demonstrating planning and running an activity, such as part of a badge for the section.

- Programme** Play a part in the planning of the sections programme, using ideas collected from the section.

- Delivery** Take on responsibility for organising and running part of the section's programme.

The YL team will be able to advise the YL on how these missions should be approached, and how they can provide evidence of their completion.

External Recognition

Training undertaken as part of the YL Training Scheme can count towards a qualification from the Institute of Leadership and Management. YLs who are interested in this should talk to the YL team, who will be able to advise further on registering and providing evidence for this qualification.

When YLs continue as an Adult Leader after turning 18, the training undergone as a YL can be counted towards the learning required for some of the Adult training modules - information on the prior learning YL modules can count towards can be found in "Prior Learning Gained in the Young Leaders' Scheme", linked at the end of this guide.



YLs who have completed the YL Training Scheme are able to wear the ESYL Service Award on their Adult Leader uniform.

Young Leaders and DofE

The Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme helps develop Young People for life and work, and each year sees thousands work to develop themselves physically, learn a new skill, and volunteer in their communities, as well as plan and take part in an expedition.

DofE is often delivered alongside the Explorer Scout programme as it compliments many of the skills we aim to prepare our members with, and gives them the chance to have these externally recognised, as well as contributing to their completion of the Scouting Top Awards.

Some Explorer Scouts may wish to use the volunteering they are already doing with your section in order to complete this portion of their award, others may choose to volunteer with you for a set period of time for the award - both of these are perfectly acceptable, but in both cases it's important the YL Unit are aware of this so they can properly support the YL in completing their award.

Training Requirements

All volunteers must complete Module A within three months of starting their volunteering. YLs volunteering as part of the DofE award must also complete two hours of training per level of award.

Bronze Module A

Silver Module A if not already completed, or two additional hours of training

Gold Module A if not already completed, or two additional hours of training

Signing Off

Upon completing the required time for the level of award, the YL will need to have their volunteering section signed off and evidence of their involvement provided to their DofE centre. This should be done by the YL Unit, who are able to confirm their involvement and that the correct amount of training has been undertaken during their time volunteering.

Volunteers from Outside Scouting

In some cases Young People from outside Scouting may contact you requesting to volunteer with your section as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's award, or as part of the Girlguiding UK Queen's Guide Award - this is possible as long as they are aged between 14-18, but must follow the rules set out by Scouting as explained below.

Although young people can start their Bronze DofE award in the school year they turn 14, non-members **must** be 14 before starting to volunteer within Scouting.

Unfortunately it's not possible for non-members to volunteer with your section outside of these two awards - they can however join as an Explorer Scout and then join you as a YL, whilst also having the opportunity to take part in the Explorer programme on offer too.

Volunteering Timeframes

Volunteers from outside of Scouting can only volunteer for the amount of time required to complete this section of their award (e.g. 3 months for the Bronze level DofE). Once they have completed this time they **must** stop volunteering with the section, unless they choose to join the movement as an Explorer Scout YL.

When an external volunteer joins it's important that this timeframe and the requirement to complete some YL training modules during this time is properly explained before they begin - if necessary they or their DofE centre/Guide group should contact the YL team who can provide further detail.

Information Required to Join

For us to properly register an external volunteer with the YL Unit, we require their full name, date of birth, and a parent's contact email address. We can then add them to the YL Unit on OSM, and invite them to fill out any further information we require such as an emergency contact. This record can then be shared with your section's OSM, if you use it.

We will also need to know what level of award the young person is working on, and when they will be completing their volunteering with you.

This information should be sent to the YL Team and DESA as soon as a young person requests to volunteer with you, so we can contact them, and register them with the Unit as appropriate.

Contacts

Explorer Scout Leader - Young Leaders	Clare Waggett	young-leaders@cabotexplorers.org.uk
District Explorer Scout Administrator	David de Silva	desa@cabotexplorers.org.uk
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Owen Jones	desc@cabotexplorers.org.uk

Useful Links

Young Leaders Scheme - An Overview	https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/running-an-explorer-unit/explorer-scout-young-leaders-scheme/
Prior Learning Gained in the Young Leaders' Scheme	https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/training/learners/prior-learning-gained-in-the-young-leaders-scheme/links-between-the-two-schemes/
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	https://www.dofe.org/
Institute of Leadership and Management	https://www.i-l-m.com/