

## Young Leaders

Explorer Scout Young Leaders are an extremely useful resource for the younger sections. The experience of being a Young Leader is very rewarding, particularly if all the training is completed, and contributes hugely towards the Skills for Life that Scouting is committed to providing. They are one of our main sources for recruiting the adult leaders of the future, and section leaders play a crucial role in giving them the opportunity to develop their skills. In recognition of the value of Explorer Scout Young Leaders, Scouting is investing in this area to improve the experience for young people and adults alike.

### The Appointment of Explorer Scout Young Leaders

- a. Explorer Scouts can become Young Leaders in the Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Sections.
- b. Explorer Scout Young Leaders should undertake appropriate training as described in the Young Leaders' Scheme. It is compulsory for Explorer Scout Young Leaders to complete Module A within their first three months.
- c. A young person under the age of 18 years working with another Section must not have unsupervised access to youth Members.
- d. All Explorer Scout Young Leaders are members of a Young Leaders' Explorer Scout Unit. (and should be shared with the District YL Unit in OSM)
- e. The following non-members may work with the Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout or Scout Sections, with the agreement of the Section Leader, for a fixed period of time (as required for their level of award).
  - Members of Girlguiding UK aged 13.5-18 undertaking a Girlguiding UK award with a volunteering requirement.
  - Young people aged 13.5-18 undertaking the Volunteering Section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Note: Non-members may not volunteer within Scouting until they are 13.5 years of age.

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- f. Non-members working with Beaver Scout, Cub Scout or Scout sections are also required to complete training similar to Explorer Scout Young Leaders, this is outlined

at [www.scouts.org.uk/dofe](http://www.scouts.org.uk/dofe) and in the Young Leaders' Scheme.

- g. Members of Girlguiding and those young people undertaking the Volunteering Section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are not members of the Association and do not have access to the wider Explorer Scout provision.

Please note that Young leaders DO NOT impact on ratios for section specific POR. They are considered neither a section member nor an adult for calculating your ratios.

You should only really have 3 Young Leaders in your section at any one time.

Scouting Young Leaders **always** have priority over DofE YLs – if you already have 3 YLs in a section– you should not take anymore even allowing for some not turning up each week – max should be 3 signed up. *(The only exception to this is if you are using one per "six/lodge" for every activity, every week – so they are very well utilised. Please inform Claire however of this exception)*

A Young Leader role – whether Scouting or DofE, shouldn't be a tick box exercise for volunteering. You need to support hem appropriately and they in return need to put the effort in to help run nights and indeed run their own nights.

If you have young people wanting to do volunteering experience and you already have your max of 3 YLs, then please get in touch with Claire Cowie (Young Leader Unit Leader, who may be able to help support additional placing in other groups who are not at capacity)

Hopefully many of these Young Leaders will become leaders of the future and give back to Scouting the great time and experiences that they have gained will they have been a scout. It is very important to encourage the Young Leader to develop and gain confidence and support them through their Young Leader Development as this will benefit them in their personal development and their section and your group and the wider world of the Scout Movement. Remember that all Young Leaders can also join in the with the other Explorer Groups of their district.

## Top Tips for Explorer Scout Young Leaders

Encourage them to get stuck in

ESYLs can help with an array of tasks. They are not there to make the juice or the tea, any more than any other leader. They are an integral part of your leadership team. By investing some time with your ESYL at the beginning, you are much more likely to see them develop and take an active role in planning and running the section.

ESYLs could:

- help to plan the programme
- plan and run youth forums and games to get feedback from the section
- plan and run games and activities
- open or close the meeting
- help with websites or social media pages (with support, as they are still under 18)
- run sessions on topics they feel confident about
- talk to young people about their experiences
- help to organise events
- inspire the section, acting as a role model
- attend residential trips and camps

In order for ESYLs to complete these activities, they will need some support from you. It is advisable to talk through any tasks or activities before they do them for the first time. Consider whether you are the best person in the section's leadership team to support the ESYL. Is there someone else in the leadership team who would thrive buddying a new member of the team?

## FAQs

Q: Can Explorer Scout Young Leaders (ESYLs) volunteer within their old Scout Troop?

A: ESYLs can request to return to their old Scout Troop to volunteer as an ESYL. However, it's recommended that they should take a break of 12 months before doing this. Extra time away enables them to develop their skills before taking on more responsibility, and gives their old Troop time to understand and accept the ESYLs' new role.

Q: Can an ESYL use the training in modules they have done towards the Adult Training Scheme?

A: ESYLs can use the training they have completed as prior learning when they come to adult training and working towards their Wood Badge. Like all leaders, they will still need to validate their learning.

Q: How long do ESYLs have to complete the Scheme?

A: There is no timeframe ESYLs have to complete the Scheme within, but they must complete it before turning 18. The Scheme is part of the Explorer Scout programme and therefore finishes at 18 years old.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award requirements and Explorer Scout Young Leaders

The timescale and start date for DofE depend on a number of factors and should be approved by the DofE Leader on eDofE – the electronic system used to record progress through DofE. It is important that those from outwith Scouting do not continue to help in a section beyond the period of time they have chosen unless they choose to become Explorers. If there is any doubt about the timescale, the candidate can be asked to show the relevant section on their eDofE account, or the DofE Leader can be contacted. The timescale and dates should be recorded on the inside cover of the Logbook. DofE candidates who are Explorers can, of course, continue as ESYLs, but it is in their interest to have the Volunteering section signed off promptly at the end of the required period. Section Leaders acting as Assessors should ensure that Module A has been completed before submitting their report.

Training requirements are the same for each level: to complete Module A plus a further two hours of training appropriate to role.

The required period for the Volunteering section will be recorded on eDofE as:

- Bronze: 3 months or 6 months
- Silver: 6 months or 12 months
- Gold: 12 months or 18 months

## GENERAL RULES

1. To become an ESYL a young person must be registered with District via the ESL(YL) who is responsible for all ESYLs in the District and who must be consulted before a placement is arranged. Primary registration for an ESYL should be done by their ESL or by the ESL(YL) if they are a member only of the District ESYL Unit.
2. Contact with the ESL(YL) should be made by the section leader with the approval of the GSL.
3. The Scout Association's advice that a period of twelve months should elapse before ESYLs can operate in their old Scout troop should be followed. Where geography permits ESYLs should be encouraged to move to a different group as this will broaden their experience.
4. There should be no more than three YLs in a section.
5. All ESYLs (including DofE candidates from outwith Scouting) must complete Module A within three months. All ESYLs should be encouraged to complete more (and hopefully all) of the modules and missions required for the award of the Young Leader's Belt.
6. The Safeguarding Policy of the Scout Association applies to the Young Leader just as it does to any other young person under 18 years. The ESL(YL) will issue the ESYL with the 'Orange Card' which is a modified version of the adult leader's 'Yellow Card'. The ESYL should carry this at all times.
7. An ESYL must be supervised by an adult leader at all times and should never be given sole responsibility over a group of younger people.
8. If an ESYL takes part in any residential or adventurous activities as a Young Leader their parent or guardian's permission should always be obtained.
9. On a Nights Away an ESYL must have separate sleeping accommodation to both adult leaders and Scouts.
10. An ESYL should not normally be expected to pay for a camp or outing for the section they are helping.

11. Candidates from outwith Scouting must also be registered immediately. DofE candidates should be registered only for the period required by their DofE. This will be recorded in OSM and shared with the S&T District Young Leader Unit and at the end of that period they must cease to be an ESYL or become an Explorer Scout. Failure to observe this rule has serious implications for insurance.
12. All ESYLs other than those mentioned in the previous bullet point are Explorer Scouts and can participate in all Explorer Scout activities, whether they belong to a specific Unit or only the Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Unit. They should be encouraged to do so.
13. It should be noted that ESYLs using their role for the Volunteering section of DofE (whether with Scouting, school or elsewhere) must complete the minimum training requirements (Module A and two additional hours of training per level) before their Assessor can sign them off by submitting their report.
14. An ESYL cannot continue as an Explorer Scout Young Leader beyond their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.