



EXPLORERS



YOUTH SHAAPED SCOUTTING

Get involved



network

#YouShape

FOREWORD

Young people working in partnership with adults in Scouting, has always been something we have been proud of. Youth Shaped Scouting not only improves the way we Scout, but also the young people involved. Learning to speak up, be heard and work towards improving something you are passionate about is an incredible learning experience for the youngest Beaver right the way through to our eldest Network member.

As part of Vision2018 we want every young person to have the opportunity to shape their experience. Youth Shaped Scouting is about young people shaping their own adventure, taking on responsibility, developing skills, making decisions and influencing their own Scout Programme. There are lots of things that you can do to help this happen; from introducing section youth forums to encouraging young people to record vlogs to share and reflect on past activities and decisions made in the section.

These activities have been written for a young leader or section leader to use, however can be transferred and used at any level of Scouting for example at a district or county forum.

YouShape Week is a week-long focus on youth-shaped Scouting between the 1st and 7th of February 2016. We want all young people to be involved in youth forums and activities during the week. This could be anything from a county youth forum residential weekend to a 10 minute log chew at Beavers – it is really up to you. We hope that this resource will inspire you to get involved and support your involvement by giving you some great ideas!

We want you to use this opportunity to really get the conversation going about your scouting programme in addition to focusing on planning and discussing local topics that are important to the young people, the section, group, district or county. However there are some questions that we really want to know the answer to from as many of our Explorer and Network members as possible which you will find on page 4.

Let us know what you talk about and how you have incorporated youth-shaped Scouting into the Unit. With your encouragement and support we hope that all young people will have the opportunity to contribute and engage both nationally and within their section to YouShape Week.

We look forward to hearing from you.

YouShape Team

“An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility onto the individual!”

Lord Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys

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This resource showcases just a few methods that you can use. There are many more games and activity's around; if you have any feedback or anything that you would like to share with us we would love to hear it. Please email youth.shaped@scouts.org.uk

NB: Where relevant, when the word 'County' or 'District' is used, it may be read as Area, Region (Scotland), or Bailiwick as appropriate.

YouShape Week

1st-7th February 2016



An activity to get involved with the National Conversation help you achieve your #YouShape Badge

The idea is to use the activities in this resource to help you plan an activity or evening that gets your young people chatting about these questions as well as (and more importantly) their own scouting programme and local conversations.

Each section has its own badge, distinguishable by the edging colour with the adult badge having a purple border.

1. What do you think will encourage you to engage in the UK Scout Network and District Networks when you reach 18? For this question you might like to spend 10 minutes researching the Network Reboot. This is for your benefit as a section leader to get ideas of what activities to run, however it also helps us to understand what our young people enjoy doing most in Scouting.
2. In order to provide more opportunities for leadership, do you think there should be a role similar to Patrol Leaders like Senior Explorer Scout positions? We really want to hear what aspect of leadership young people value most so that we can support section leaders and young people with appropriate resources.

Visit scouts.org.uk/youshape to let us know your answers.

We want to get a national conversation going amongst Network members on the following 2 questions:

1. For this question please spend 10 minutes researching the Network Reboot. What do you want to achieve (in terms of awards/new skills/ challenges) in your time in Network?
2. Local youth commissioners are currently being appointed at a District and County level. What do you see as the next step in Youth Shaped Scouting to build on this?

Visit scouts.org.uk/youshape to let us know your answers.

Get involved in the national conversation and have the opportunity to feature in Scouting Magazine as well as receiving further hints, tips and activities by giving us your feedback.

#YouShape badges are available, wear with pride and show that you have participated in the week and are helping to achieve youth-shaped Scouting. To purchase the badges visit Scout Shops online.

YOUTH FORUMS

Youth Forums are not the only way to allow Explorer and Network Scouts to have their say, however they are a commonly used format. These forums could be set up and run in a variety of ways. They could take place as a Unit every term during a normal meeting or once a year where all the Units in the District come together. These events should be fun, flexible and informal to increase participation. They can be run on any level, from a unit on a meeting night to a District, County, Regional, (or equivalent) or National level.

Key Messages- Explorers

- At this age there is a stronger emphasis on planning, delivering and evaluating their own programme (including residential events) and should be able to participate in decision-making beyond the unit.
- Have the opportunity to take on leadership roles in the unit in the short term (with support as necessary).
- Explorer Scouts should recognise that they are part of a District and should work alongside other Explorer Scouts in neighbouring Units.
- A large function of the leader role is to facilitate and understand that it is okay for Explorers to organise evenings which go wrong, have too much or too little planned etc, as long as they learn from it for next time.
- Your responsibility as a Leader is to keep them safe, not to have every meeting go perfectly to plan!
- Inform Explorers of opportunities locally and nationally (such as events and awards) and help select and choose appropriate opportunities with the young person.
- It is vital to act on the choices and decisions made by Explorers. Provide an explanation, and discuss alternative options, where there is a good reason why you can't act on feedback or suggestions given to Explorers.

Key Messages- Network

Network Members are responsible for all elements of their Network experience (ideally including finance and other administrative tasks) so this should be just used as an aid for some fun activities to use with their peers.

- Able to participate in decision-making beyond the Unit.
- Have the opportunity to take on leadership/management roles within the Unit and know where to go for support and advice.
- Leader role becomes more of an Adviser and 'trouble-shooter' – stepping in if there is a serious issue, or to offer advice and support.
- Network members should be made aware of opportunities locally and nationally (such as events and awards).
- It is vital to act on the choices and decisions made by Network members. Work with Network members to explore alternative options if there is a good reason why their choices or decisions can't be implemented.

Ideas for what to discuss

- Oversee programme planning and regularly review the programme to ensure it is meeting the needs of the section.
- The content of the Unit Programme.
- Camp venues and activities.
- If the Unit has funds to spend, the forum could discuss what to spend on, for example outdoor equipment.
- Fundraising ideas, for example to help those completing their Explorer Belt, or to subsidise the cost of a camp or activity.
- Though leaders are responsible for making the agreed Programme happen, Explorers & Network members who want to help organise and run activities should be encouraged and supported.
- Organise and plan events, both for members of the Network and possibly members of other County Scout Networks, including activity days and camps.
- Future internal and external communications (writing to local papers, advertising, recruitment)

QUICK FIRE ENGAGEMENT

These activities can be used to quickly gauge opinions on an issue or activity.

Snowball Fight

A fun and useful planning tool to help participants express their ideas.

10-20 minutes
Plain paper, scrap paper
Pens, pencils

Instructions

Everybody loves a snowball fight and this one is not just for the winter! Give everyone a piece of paper and set a topic or question for them to answer.

What would you like to do this term?

What theme would you like the next camp to be?

Best ways for the District to communicate with members?

What does Youth Shaped Scouting mean to you?

What country would you like to visit?

Now crumple the paper into a snowball, divide the group into two teams on opposite sides of the room and let the snowball fight begin! When you call stop, each participant is to pick up the nearest snowball and split up into pairs or small groups to discuss the ideas. After this, ask them to feedback to the whole group about their favourite ideas.



Diamond ranking

An activity to rank Programme ideas in order of preference

10-15 minutes
Flipchart paper Marker pens Sticky notes Pens

Instructions

Ask the Explorers, either as a whole or in smaller groups to generate nine ideas and write them on sticky notes- think of a few ideas in advance to get the ball rolling (for example the activities on offer at a camp site or an activity centre).

Ask the group to arrange the sticky notes in a diamond shape, with their top priority at the top, two in second place, three in third place, two in fourth place and the lowest priority at the bottom. Groups should get a consensus before finishing, where everyone should agree.

The whole group could be discussing a different style of activity or aspect of an event and then rank them, or if in smaller groups, all groups should get the same activities and an average is taken at the end with the top events going forward to the next round of heats. They can discuss the top ideas from each group.

Advantages of this method include each group discussing the ideas without realising they are, and as a group deciding on the order (therefore it's not one person's opinion, which can often be the problem when asking for suggestions on an individual basis).

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Here are some longer activity ideas designed to get Explorers and Network members involved in making decisions and shaping their programme.

Debate Night

An activity to help Explorers and Network members develop their confidence, communication and debating skills.

45-60 minutes
Enthusiastic young people!

Instructions

As the title suggests this is an activity that allows those involved to have the space to voice their opinions and work in a team to do so.

Depending on the number of people in the Unit split into teams of around 8 people. Pick a topic, statement or question that has a for or against stance or has two different outcomes.

For Example:

- Does the unit want to go on a trip to the Lake District or London for a weekend in the summer?
- We should spend some unit funds towards a trip abroad rather than new tents.

Give the teams 30 minutes (or more) to plan and research their topic. There are many ways to do this but a suggestion could be that the team present their case and then listen to the opposing team. You then could open it up for teams to ask each other questions and debate the points made. At the end a panel of judges (also participants that have not been involved in the prep) will impartially and independently decide on the winning team. It is important to have a chair person to organise and to facilitate the debate.

This activity really builds the young people's confidence and helps them learn to express themselves whilst also allowing them to understand the importance of and how some decisions are difficult to make so compromise may be needed.



Bricks in the wall

An activity to help young people think about the obstacles when planning for an action to take place

25 minutes

Paper (for the bricks) Marker pens. Pens Blu-tack Wall
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Instructions

Decide beforehand on an activity or adventure that you would like to do as a section-this is an activity to help plan and risk assess.

Get into small groups and ask them to think of all the reasons that could stop this happening or obstacles that you need to overcome before it happens. Give each group a number of blank 'bricks' and ask them to write a short statement summing the reason up and add it to the wall. Once this is finished allow them to examine the wall or elect somebody to read through the statements.

The participants must now work together to break down the wall with solutions. They can work together as a group or in small teams but try and encourage them to find solutions for problems that they didn't put forward. Display the solved issues but don't add the bricks back onto the wall. This means that if any bricks cannot be removed, they are very tricky problems and may need your help.

You can use pieces of paper for the bricks or if you have the resources, this could be a 3D wall using cardboard boxes or shoe boxes and sticky notes.

Share the adventure

Participants plan and carry out an evening of activities to teach local Cubs and/or Scouts new skills

60 minutes
Anything needed for the chosen activities

Instructions

This activity requires a little more planning but is very rewarding. It allows you as a leader to see what the Explorers really enjoy doing and provides them with the time and space to develop their planning and leadership skills.

The Explorers should decide between them what skills they would like to teach. They could either pick one skill to work on together with the Cubs or Scouts, or work in small teams to run skills bases throughout the evening. They could also contact the section leader for the Pack(s) or Troop(s) that will be attending their skills night to find out whether the Cubs or Scouts are working towards any badges and awards relating to specific skills.

Skills could include:

- Fire lighting.
- Cooking on an open fire.
- Pioneering.
- Navigating.
- Shelter building.
- Climbing (with appropriate permit holders).
- Canoeing (with appropriate permit holders).



The Brainstorm Bag

Explorers and Network members take a keen interest in what they do during their meetings. They usually have a clear idea of what they like. However, sometimes they have difficulty coming up with ideas of what they would like to do as a group. This activity should help them develop ideas for their programme.

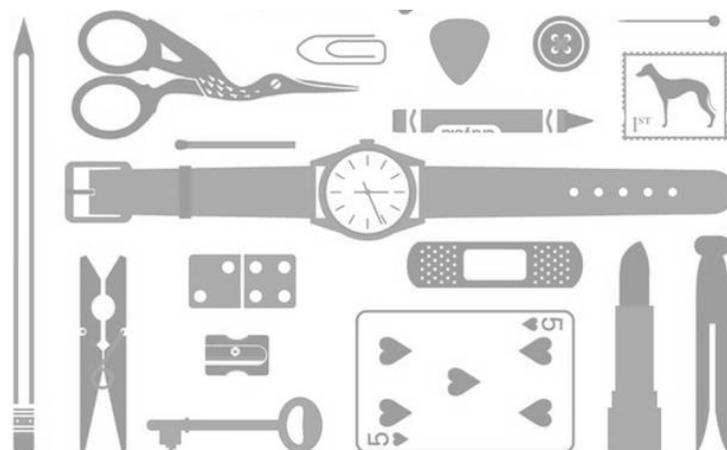
30 minutes +

Flipchart paper

Marker pens

15-20 random items (e.g. toothbrush, candle, battery, spoon etc).

A bag to hold the items.



Instructions

Bring a bag of assorted bits and pieces to your meeting. This should contain a wide selection of different items such as a toothbrush, chalk, sticky tape, string, Lego pieces, diary, packet of crisps, mask, pencil, key ring, teddy bear, t-shirt, sunglasses, fork, spoon and a Swiss army knife.

Tip the contents of the bag into the middle of the floor. Run a relay race from the four corners of your meeting room. One person from each team must pick up an item and take it back to their team. The team then has to generate six programme suggestions from the item before returning it to the pile in the middle and picking up another one.

Lateral thinking should be encouraged e.g. the toothbrush might suggest:

Teeth: visit a dentist

Brush: art, visit an art gallery

Brush: sweeping up (an environmental project), DIY (painting and decorating)

Brush: hairstyling, Chinese calligraphy (uses a brush), make-up art, face painting etc.

All these suggestions involve brushes and were generated from the toothbrush. Some ideas may be practical, some may not. This is not important. You are trying to encourage free thinking.

At the end ask the whole group to decide on their top ten favourites, collect all the flipchart paper in, and as a leader team (or even better, a Unit Forum) review the suggestions.

Discussion carousel

An activity to encourage participants to share Programme ideas

20 minutes +

Chairs

Instructions

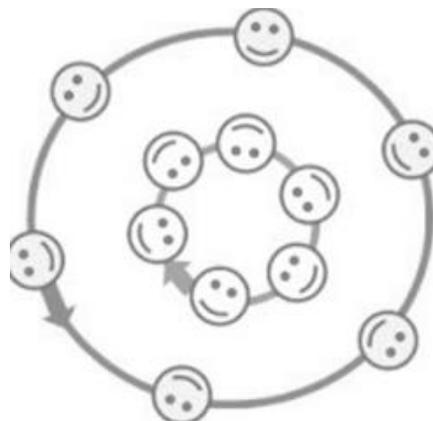
This really gets the participants thinking and chatting. Arrange the participants into two circles, one inside the other, and sit pairs facing each other.

Set a topic for discussion, for example 'How can the district better communicate with young people'? How can we encourage Youth Shaped Scouting across the county?"

Give everyone one minute to come up with their ideas. The inner circle should then tell the out circle about their ideas, and then swap over. While one member of the pair is giving their ideas, their partner should listen and not speak.

When everyone is finished, people sitting in the outer circle should move left one space. They should then repeat the activity, but this time explaining their own ideas as well as those of their previous partner. This means that everyone should end up with four different sets of ideas to consider, and also everyone has a chance to have a go at representing the views of others.

Once the activity is finished, Explorers should report back to the Unit any good activity ideas they heard about and discuss how these may fit into the term's Programme plan.



Scout Network Committee

This is a great activity to help get both Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members more in the know about what the committee does and encourage them to get involved either now or in the future.

45+ minutes

Blu-tak

Flipchart paper

Pencils

Pens

White paper

[Role description for an Assistant County Commissioner \(Scout Network\) \(FS330103\)](#) (PDF)

[Role Description for a Chairman of the Executive Committee \(FS330030\)](#) (PDF)

[Role Description for a Treasurer of the Executive Committee \(FS330034\)](#) (PDF)

[Role Description for a Secretary of the Executive Committee \(FS330032\)](#) (PDF)

[Role Description for an Executive Committee Member \(FS330101\)](#) (PDF)

Instructions

- Briefly cover what the committee is and ask the participants to call out some of the tasks that they think the committee will need to fulfil.
- Use the cards on the next page and use blank cards or post it notes for adding tasks that are not on the list.
- Explain that they are now going to allocate these tasks to the committee. What roles should there be on the committee?
 - They are likely to come up with the Scout Network Leader, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary, but these may vary slightly.
- Depending on the size of the group split the participants into groups or keep as a whole. Facilitate a discussion around what role does what and who would be interested in the different roles.

Top Tips

- It is worth noting that the tasks do not all have to be done by the committee, or specific committee members.
- It is good practice for the tasks to be delegated to other members of the Network, but it is the Committee member's responsibility to ensure that they are done.
- You may find that they disagree on some roles and tasks- emphasise that this is fine as long as somebody takes responsibility for it.
- It is also important to emphasise that the role description is not set in stone, and should be reviewed regularly and agreed with anybody taking on a new roles.
- If the committee is doing their job properly, the Scout Network Leader should have little more to do apart from act as a steer and a source of advice.

Representing the Network at County Network meetings	Keeping correspondence	Preparing promotional material	Recruitment	Keeping the ACC (SN) informed of the programme and other issues
Paying in cash and dealing with accounts	Circulating minutes of the Network meeting	Liaising with the local District Commissioner	Liaising with the local DESC	Ensuring correct storage of Network equipment
Deciding the business of the Network Committee	Chairing Network Committee meetings	Distribute the programme	Preparing press releases	Representing the Network outside Scouting
Preparing the Network's annual budget	Collecting membership fees from the Network members	Attending the District Explorer Scout Forum (if applicable)	Representing the Network on the District/County Scout Council	Ensuring that the Network Leader is kept up-to-date
Editing local Network newsletter	Updating the Network web site	Prepare/circulate the agenda for the Network Committee meetings	Recording the decisions of the Network Executive Committee	Send copy of accounts to County Treasurer every three months
Planning the Network Programme	Keeping members informed of activities and events	Liaising with County Network Treasurer	Links with other local/specialist Networks/SSAGO	Arranging for new members to be welcomed
Supporting members in achieving outside Governing Body Awards	Visit Explorer Unit(s)	Keeps an accurate list of Explorers aged 17 upwards	Planning joint activities with Explorers	Fundraising
Arrange Network equipment insurance	Decide Network Standards on uniform and behaviour	Prepare annual statement of the Network income and expenditure	Make arrangements for the accounts to be audited	Setting targets for fundraising
Prepare and publish the Network's annual report	Purchasing new equipment	Maintain training and membership records	Maintain a text message system of communication to members	Maintain an e-mail distribution list to communicate to members
Maintaining Network records	Assessing all the Network Awards			

Development Plan

A tool to help Explorers and Network members put together a development plan for a Youth Forum on a unit, district or county level.

45-60 minutes

Flipchart paper
Marker pens
Pens
Copies of the development plan template (see back of resource)

Instructions

One of the most effective ways of starting to look at how a unit, district or region/county can involve young people in the decision-making process has been through the use of other young people! By visually recording aspirations of events such as youth forums and communicating these to others you can really start to get people on board and get the ball rolling- this also helps develop the young people's planning and leadership skills by creating a manageable work plan.

Draw a line on a piece of paper, with one end representing where the Youth Forum is now, and one representing where you want it to be in 12 months' time.

What are the key features that are missing to enable you to reach the goal?

Are there any good milestones you can put in place to help you get there?

What resources do you have available to help you? (Time, money, training, equipment etc.)

Are there particular leaders, commissioners etc. who are personally backing this initiative?

Use the attached sheet to help with putting together the development plan.



Youth Forum Development Plan

Aim/Target			
How will you know the aim/target has been achieved? E.g. Statistics, events			
Actions Step by step to getting to the outcome			
Deadlines			
Who will do this?			
Progress: Where are you up to?			
Skills gaps in knowledge, expertise or understanding	Learning or development required		
	<p>This is an opportunity to consider what learning and development opportunities need to be resourced and available for the group/individual to ensure you can meet your objectives.</p> <p>Largely, this is about what new activities, policies, initiatives, and so on are likely to impact on planned work.</p>		

CHALLENGES

Get involved with YouShape week and try to do as many of the following as possible!

- Take a selfie and post on social media using #YouShape
- Take a short video and share it with us.
- Submit feedback and receive your YouShape Week certificate to display proudly in your meeting place.
- Order #YouShape badges to wear throughout 2016.
- Make sure that every person has their say.
- Think of an original way of spelling out the word YouShape
- Set up a thoughts box to allow young people to submit their ideas in writing and anonymously if they wish.
- Have one or more Explorers or Network members write a blog or piece about the evening. Send this to us for the chance to be in the next Scouting Magazine.

