

The 6-25 Programme



Item Code FS200202 Oct/02 Edition no 1

0845 300 1818

The Scout Association has a continuous training Programme that aims to promote the growth and development of young people from 6 – 25. By working through the five training Sections, the Programme can be delivered in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the young people in each age range, and builds on what has gone before.

A Firm Foundation.

At the heart of the Programme lie the six areas of personal development. These are Body, Mind, Faith and Beliefs, Relationships, Community and Surroundings. Leaders help young people to grow and develop in each of these areas through their involvement in the Balanced Programme. The Balance Programme therefore provides the framework for the week by week meetings and all the other activities that Scouts of any age can take part in.

It's all about participation.

The Balanced Programme is all about joining in, or participating. There is much less emphasis on passing tests, and a much greater emphasis on encouraging young people to learn from taking part. This simplifies the number of records that a Leader needs to keep, for each individual. The Balanced Programme has three essential components,

The Programme Zones These are essentially areas of activity. Each Section has its own set of Programme Zones, and they range from five in the Beaver Scouts to eight in the Explorer Scout/Scout Network Programme. Each Section includes Zones that cover activities such as outdoors, community, fitness, international and beliefs and attitude. Leaders, planning their

Section's programme, need to visit each Zone regularly, to ensure they deliver a Programme that is balanced. Sometimes the meeting night or event will cover activities from just one Zone, while some meetings will draw activities from a variety of Zones. There is no specific list of activities that need to be included in each Zone. Leaders are free to select activities that they feel are appropriate and will appeal to the young people in their Section.

The Methods. Each Section has a range of methods that help leaders explore each Zone in an imaginative way. While they vary slightly from Section to Section, most include methods that will involve using games, making things, going on visits, helping others, using the outdoors and following themes. The range of methods helps to bring as much variety into the programme as possible.

Underlying Ways of Working. These can best be described as what would be apparent to someone walking in on the meeting. They would see lots of activity, and young people having fun. They would see teamwork and commitment, and as the young people get older, evidence of leadership and increased responsibility.

Membership Award

The Membership Award prepares a young person to join Scouting and is common to all Sections. The Award is presented when the young person makes or reaffirms their Promise.

Joining –in Awards and Participation Awards

For taking part in the Programme, young people receive a special badge, that is awarded on the anniversary of their first joining Scouting. It is a

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

chance to celebrate what has been achieved through their involvement in the Programme. In the Beaver Scout and Cub Scout Sections this is called the Joining-In Award, while in the Scout Section it is known as the Participation Award. In Explorer Scouting, and the Scout Network, the badge is replaced by a certificate, that records both what the young person has achieved during the year, and the opportunities that exist for the following year.

Challenges

Every Section has a number of Challenge Awards. They grow naturally from the activities in the Programme Zones, and challenge the young people to use the skills they have learnt. By undertaking a challenge either individually, or as a member of a group, members can earn either a badge in the Colony, Pack or Troop, or a certificate in the Explorer Scout and Scout Network Unit. The Challenges in the Unit coincide closely with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Challenges are the route to the 'top' Award in each Section.

The Chief Scout's Award

All the Sections have a top or key Award - in fact the Explorer Scout and Scout Network Sections share three between them.

For Beaver Scouts, the top Award is the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. To achieve this, a Beaver Scout will need to have gained two Challenges, and complete a personal challenge, something agreed between the Beaver Scout and their leader.

The top Award for a Cub Scout is the Chief Scout's Silver Award. This time the Cub Scout must gain three Challenges (one of which must be the Outdoor Challenge) and complete a personal challenge.

Scouts need to achieve five Challenges, (one of which needs to be the Outdoors Challenge), together with the personal challenge.

In the Explorer Scout and the Scout Network Sections the three key Awards coincide with the three Duke of Edinburgh Awards. They are the

Chief Scout's Platinum Award, the Chief Scout's Diamond Award and the Queen's Scout Award.

Activity Badges

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, all have a range of Activity Badges. While these are an optional part of the of the Programme, they can be used to complement and extend the Balanced Programme. In addition there are 4 'staged' Activity Badges, each with five levels that can be taken by any Scout under 18 years at any time. They are IT, Musician, Nights Away and Swimmer. These are the only staged badges.

Group Awards

Group Awards are yet another way of helping Leaders to achieve a Balanced Programme. They can only be achieved by members from two or more Sections working together. There are three Awards, The International Friendship Award, The Environment Award and the Faith Award. There is considerable flexibility in what can be achieved, but the Group Award must include a project that is worked on over a period of three – six months.

Moving-on Award

This introduces a young person to the activities and training programme of the next Section, and members will normally begin the Award during their final six months in the Section. It includes the requirements of the Membership Award, so once achieved, there is nothing further to do to become a member of their new Section.

What is really different?

The main difference between the current Programme and what has gone before is not so much in the activities that young people are involved in, but how Leaders plan and organise the programme. A Leader who is working through the Programme Zones and regularly awarding 'Joining In' or 'Participation Awards', will be delivering good Scouting. For others, the Challenges and Group Awards, and the wide range of Activity Badges will all help to add a little extra spice that will extend and complement the Balanced Programme. The Programme with its emphasis on participation is easier for all Leaders to manage.