

Explorer Scout Badges

The Explorer Scout Section has a wide range of awards and badges designed to appeal to all Explorer Scouts, regardless of the type of Unit of which they are a member. The awards and badges are an important part of Scouting, as they offer challenge, achievement and recognition for young people.

Badges

- The Explorer Scout Membership Award
- Moving-On Award - Scout Troop to Explorer Scout Unit
- The Chief Scout's Platinum Award
- The Chief Scout's Diamond Award
- The Queen's Scout Award
- International, Environment and Values activities list
- Moving-On Award - Explorer Scouts to the Scout Network
- The Explorer Belt

Activity badges

In addition to these main awards there are a number of **Activity Badges** available for Explorer Scouts to work towards. There are also four **Staged Activity Badges** available to all young people in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, Scout and Explorer Scout sections.

Promoting the awards

As a member of the leadership team, it is important to promote the various awards and badges and encourage Explorer Scouts to take part. The awards and badges can be promoted by:

- making sure that each member of the Unit has a copy of the Navigator when they join the Unit. This will give them the essential information on awards and badges
- keeping the records of participation in activities up to date. Many of the requirements will be met by participation in a Balanced Programme
- encouraging Unit Members who have gained awards and badges to talk about their experiences with other members of the Unit
- reminding Explorer Scouts that any award or badge they have started in their Unit can be completed as a member of the Scout Network.

Assessment of awards and badges

You are responsible for making sure that awards and badges are assessed correctly. The District Explorer Scout Commissioner is responsible for assessing the completion of the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and Queen's Scout's Award. You will need to make sure that the right Assessors are used for the various parts of the Awards, for example, a swimming instructor would be an appropriate Assessor for swimming as a physical activity. You will also be responsible for giving the Assessor a short informal briefing about the philosophy of the Award and why the Explorer Scout is undertaking that particular activity.

Accessibility of Awards

All Awards and badges are designed to be accessible to all young people. The value of the Awards comes from the participation by young people, not from the accomplishment of absolute standards that may be beyond the reach of some. As a result, it is essential that discretion be applied in individual cases to reward commitment, participation and effort. For young people with more severe learning difficulties, the Gateway Award should be considered as an alternative to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. For further information on the Gateway Award, see Scouting essentials.

Award authorisation

The three top Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Awards are authorised under arrangements made by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner. There is no interview at the end of achieving an Award and it is acceptable for the District Explorer Scout Commissioner to pass responsibility for some aspects of the Awards to another Leader. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is authorised at the appropriate National Headquarters in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Assessing Awards

The individual activities for each Award should be assessed by an appropriate person. For example, the Cub Scout Leader should sign-off the Community Service section of an Award if it has been achieved by assisting with the Cub Scout Pack as a Young Leader.

The Unit leadership team are responsible for the assessment of other badges and awards including Group Awards and Activity Badges. For further information, see page 56 of Scouting essentials.

Assessment guidelines

Listed below are some guidelines for assessment of awards that you may find useful:

Awards and badges are generally assessed on personal best effort, not fixed standards. Standards will be relative to ability and experience.

Individuals should be encouraged to set their own standards before beginning an activity. Their progress can then be measured against their own standards rather than those of the leadership team.

Showing sustained effort for a period of time is essential to many of the awards and badges. Many of the requirements for the two Chief Scout's Awards are measured in months. Although the time commitment required could be described as approximately one hour per week, young people should be encouraged to maintain their interest in the activity.

The leadership team will need to take into account the Special Needs of any members of the Unit. The leadership team should feel free to adapt the requirements where appropriate to allow a young person to take part and still achieve the aim of the particular requirement.

Celebrating awards and badges as signs of success

You should promote the gaining of awards and badges as a visible sign of success. Many people outside of Scouting are aware of the Queen's Scout Award as the top award in Scouting, for instance, and will be aware of the skills that award holders have gained.

Encouraging use of the Certificate of Achievement

As the reward for completing each year in Scouting and actively taking part in the programme, a young person receives a form of recognition. In Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts, this is called the Joining-In Badge, and in Scouts it is called the Participation Badge. In Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network, Members are encouraged to complete a Certificate of Achievement to show what they have done during the previous twelve months and what they hope to achieve during the next twelve. The Explorer Scout programme