

Section Leader Factsheet

So, you have a Young Leader...

Why have a Young Leader

Young Leaders can have a better understanding of what young people want and bring a new outlook to Scouting in your section / group. They can make sessions more youth led. They are closer in age to your young people making them easier to talk to than an adult leader if they have an issue or concern. Being a Young Leader is also a great introduction to leadership!

Who can be a Young Leader?

Young Leaders are 14–18-year-olds who volunteer alongside adult leaders in a Squirrel Drey, Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. They are often Explorers, but they can also be young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards or their Queens Guide Award, volunteering as non-member of the Scouts for a set period. As a Young Leader they will very much be part of the leadership team and should play an active part in the section.

What is the Young Leader Scheme?

The Young Leader Scheme is a training programme consisting of 11 modules and four missions that they work through whilst volunteering in their chosen section. The modules cover the skills and the knowledge to be successful as a Young Leader, and the missions will allow them to put their learning into practice with support. Recognition of achievement is available along the way, and on completion of the scheme, the Young Leader is awarded with a Young Leader Belt Buckle.

It is mandatory that ALL Young Leaders (including those non-member volunteers) complete Module A.

As a district we run Young Leader Training Weekends 2-3 times annually. To register your Young Leader on a training weekend please follow the link at <https://biggleswadedistrictscouts.org.uk/information-for-leaders/yl/>

The 10 modules are as follows:

- A – Prepare for take off
- B – Taking the lead
- C – That's the way to do it!
- D – Understanding behaviour
- E – Game on!
- F – Making Scouting accessible and inclusive
- G – What is a Quality Programme
- H – Programme planning
- I – What did they say?
- J – Communicate it!
- K – First Aid Masterclass

The missions

Mission One: Game	Plan and run a minimum of three games with the section they are volunteering with. At least one game should take place indoors and one outdoors.
Mission Two: Activity	Plan and run an activity (not a game) with the section you are volunteering with.
Mission Three: Programme Planning	Take the sections programme ideas to a programme planning meeting.
Mission Four: Delivery	Take responsibility for organising and running part of the section programme.

Expectations:

The Young Leader Will....	The Section Leader Will...
Act as a positive role model to the Squirrels/Beavers/Cubs/Scouts that they are working with.	Actively involve the Young Leader in the running of the meetings.
Carry the Young People First (Orange Card) and always follow the safeguarding standards.	Sign off the Young Leaders Evidence promptly after they have completed their service towards to the completion of their awards.
Take an active role in supporting the section leaders during the whole meeting.	Inform the Young Leaders of any concerns.
Contact at least one of the leaders if they are unable to make a meeting, giving as much notice as possible.	Set achievable tasks and review them with the District Young Leader Team Lead to help them gain their missions and awards if relevant.
Assist in setting and clearing up of sessions alongside their leaders.	Involve the Young Leader in planning meetings as an integral member of the leadership team.

Top Tips to help support Young Leaders

- **Welcome them** – Try and meet with the Young Leader before – introduce them to the other leaders and young leaders in the section.
- **Get to know them** – Have they been in Scouts? Do they have any experience of working with young people or leading activities?
- **Encourage them to get stuck in** – They are not there to make juice or tea, any more than any other leader! Keep them in the loop so they have time to prepare and so they know what is happening.
- They can (with your advice and support):
 - Help run games and eventually activities and badges
 - Open and close the meeting
 - Plan and run Youth Forums to support programme planning
 - Help with websites or social media
 - Run sessions on topics that interest them
 - Talk to young people about their experiences
 - Attend residential trips and camps
 - And much more!
- **Be mindful of exams** – Discuss a flexible approach during exams

What else do I need to know?

- The minimum age for an Explorer Scout to be a Young Leader is 13.5 years
- The minimum age for those doing DofE or who are member or Girlguiding UK is 14 years.
- Young Leaders MUST NOT have unsupervised access to youth members. Young Leaders do not need a DBS check. ALL Young Leaders should be given the orange card when starting.
- InTouch arrangements and awareness of medical issues or additional needs should be in place for all Young Leaders.
- Your GLV must be informed about all Young Leaders.
- Young Leaders can help their own Troop but there should be a six-month break where perhaps they could get some experience in another section/troop. This will ensure they are seen to be part of the Leadership Team.
- It is recommended that there are no more than 3 Young Leaders per section, to allow them to develop and complete their missions.
 - Young Leaders MUST NOT be counted in the ratios of adults to young people.
 - Equally, the Young Leaders need to be included in the ratios themselves. See POR rules appropriate to section.
- Explorer Scout Young Leaders wear the Explorer Scout Uniform, often with their group neckerchief or they can wear their Explorer Necker. DofE Young Leaders do not wear uniform, Girlguiding Young Leaders can wear their Guide uniform if they wish.
- If spending nights away, Young Leaders should have their own sleeping accommodation. They should not share with adults or young people within the section

What to do as they approach 18

Talk to them about roles they can undertake – e.g. Section Team Member. They can start their DBS before their 18th Birthday.

Discuss the training requirements for the role – remember training can be used with the adult training scheme

Award the adult recognition badge if they completed the scheme.

Ask if you need support

Talk to your GLV or District Young Leader Team Lead (sue.george@biggleswadedistrictscouts.org.uk).