

## YOUNG LEADERS IN SCOUTING

Young Leaders are any young people between the age of 14 – 18 who volunteer to support scouting by working with a beaver colony, cub pack, scouts troop, or other scouting event under the supervision of the section leader. They can be young people who are in a district Explorer Scout Unit and those who choose not to be.

Young people choose to be young leaders for a number of reasons and we need to support their development as young people in scouting:

- gain the knowledge, skills and confidence required to become an effective Leader
- further their own personal development
- work towards other Awards for example Duke of Edinburgh
- acquire the skills that are needed for the Adult Training Scheme
- have fun!
- From guiding or schools doing service for their DofE

It is important to remember that these young people have the potential to be the Leaders of the future. Whatever the reason we need to ensure that we are not exploitative but provide support, encouragement, and learning/developmental opportunities

### **Scout Association position**

**From POR:** All leaders in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section who are between the ages of 14 and 18 must be members of an Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Unit.

It is highly recommended that:

- There should be no more than 3 YLs in a section
- There should be at least 2 terms (7-9 months) between a scout leaving scouts and returning to be a YL in a scout troop – this ensures that there is sufficient maturity and age separation

### **County/District position**

As a District we want to ensure that all young people, both those who do explorers and those who choose not to, but are Young Leaders, have access to the great opportunities scouting has to offer, for example:

- YL training and development
- Leadership training
- planned district opportunities
- scouting awards and badges
- DofE

Therefore all leaders in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section who are between the ages of 14 and 18 must be members of an Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Unit.

## **Explorer Scout Unit (Young Leaders) – ESU(YL)**

As a District we have established a Explorer Scout Unit (Young Leaders) ESU(YL) who is responsible for all those young people who choose to volunteer as leaders in scouting – basically a virtual Explorer Scout Unit. Our Young Leaders Unit will enable all Young People in our district access to training and development opportunities in addition to those offered by the Group/Section they work with. With the establishment of this unit there is now no reason why all young people involved in scouting (14-18) in Oxford Spires cannot be a member of an explorer scout unit.

## **Duty of care**

As leaders we have a duty of care to ensure that all young people in our care are properly registered and insured. As all YL's and Explorers are part of the District it is essential that we have a true understanding of the numbers of YL who are working in groups, particularly those who opt not to be explorers as their capitation (insurance) is paid by the district – technically if they are not registered then they are not insured and are not in scouting and cannot wear the uniform or badges of scouting!

## **Registering Young Leaders**

All Young Leaders need to be registered so that we as a District can ensure they are supported.

Registration of all Young Leaders in the District (both in a ESU or choose not to be)

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qJ4X6AYuNWOFBINY\\_7eDNjj49PsTyWYFpjjLZRqKyrY/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qJ4X6AYuNWOFBINY_7eDNjj49PsTyWYFpjjLZRqKyrY/viewform)

## **Young Leaders in your section – your responsibilities**

While a Young Leader is working in a Section, the Section Leader is responsible for their safety and welfare. The Section Leader however must ensure that the Young Leader becomes a real part of the Leadership team and is given real responsibility.

If the Young Leader takes part in any residential or adventurous activities you should always obtain their parent or carer's permission. Consideration should also be given to the sleeping arrangements, as the Young Leader is not permitted to share accommodation with either the adult Leaders or the young people in the Section in which they work.

Remember, with the right support and opportunities, Young Leaders can be a valuable part of the Leadership team. They can help provide better Scouting for more young People.

As a Sectional Leader you may be asked to sign off various elements of Awards that the young person is working towards or provide evidence for qualifications, such as NVQ's.

## **Young Leader training**

The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals. It allows them to make a valuable contribution to their community and give service to others. The scheme also helps them fulfil the service elements of their awards

Young Leaders' scheme: <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=9,98>