



Scouts

Taceham Hundred Young Leaders

Rules & Information for Section Teams

Introduction

Some Explorer Scouts or similarly aged non-members are willing to offer their time and energy to volunteer with the Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout Sections. They may be working towards an award or just want to do it for their enjoyment.

Hopefully these Young Leaders will become the adult leaders of the future, giving something back to Scouting having had a great time themselves in the youth sections. It is important that we encourage them and help them make the most of their experience in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Rules

1. Young Leader placements must be agreed and approved by the Young Leader team

All Young Leader placements must be approved prior to appointment. Please don't tell a young person that they can have a placement before it is agreed, to avoid disappointment. Most placements will be made by District, but if you directly receive an enquiry, please liaise with us before agreeing anything. This is so that we can make sure that they are properly registered and placed suitably.

2. All Young Leaders must be members of the Young Leader Unit

It is important that all Young Leaders are registered with the District Young Leader team, so that they can be supported, trained and celebrated, as well as become official members so that they are properly insured and protected.

3. All Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts by default

This does not mean, however, that they must become a member of one of the Explorer Scout Units if they do not choose to. Young Leaders who don't join a Unit will not pay subs or join in with the

Explorer programme. This also means that membership fees must be paid- these are covered by subs but if a Young Leader is not part of a Unit, the Group will need to pay the fee when requested at census time.

4. All Young Leaders must complete Module A (Safeguarding) training within 3 months

This Module of training is essential and covers the fundamentals of Scouting, key safeguarding training and the essential parts of being a Young Leader. All other training, whilst highly recommended, is optional.

5. The Young Leader is not an adult Leader

This is the most important rule. Young Leaders are young people, not adults. As such, there are key things which must always be adhered to-

- a. Young Leaders must be supervised by an appointed adult with a full role and in date mandatory training at all times, and never given sole responsibility over a group of young people.
- b. Young Leaders do not count as adults in adult to young person ratios. They must be treated as Explorer Scouts when considering ratios.
- c. The Yellow Card and all safeguarding policies must apply to Young Leaders, considering them young people.
- d. Parent or guardian permission must be sought for overnight experiences, permitted activities and anything else which may apply in the same way as a young person.
- e. If a Young Leader joins an overnight experience, they must have separate sleeping accommodation to adults and young members. This means that a separate, private area must be provided for them to sleep and change away from adults and young members.

All of these rules apply even if the Young Leaders are non-members, for example Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteers or other non-member young people aged 13-17.

Finally, Young Leaders are the responsibility of their Section Team Leader – please make their environment fun, rewarding and engaging – they may well end up in Scouts for life if we treat them well and encourage their enthusiasm.

Each Person's Role

Your Responsibilities as a Section Team Leader & Leadership Team

1. Make them part of the team

Young Leaders are part of the Section Leadership Team. Adult team members should help them to feel that their views, ideas, skills and abilities are important. You may like to-

- Introduce your Young Leaders to your adult team.
- Give them a Leader name if you use these.
- Share any information they might need.
- Talk to them about your regular ceremonies, routines and what they should do at these times, what they should wear and bring with them.

2. Support their Development

- Work with the Young Leader team to appoint a mentor for your Young Leaders.
- Invite all Young Leaders to your planning meetings, considering locations and times that are accessible for them.
- Check in on your Young Leaders regularly, especially to begin with- they may not feel comfortable asking for help.
- Once Young Leaders are settled, give some time within the programme each term over to them running something- depending on their progression this could be a game or a whole evening.
- Involve your Young Leaders every week- always give them something to do and make them feel valued.
- If your Young Leader completes a night away, please let us know so we can log it on OSM for them. This also applies to any other activity that might go towards their badges.
- Support them to complete their Missions and Top Awards, including providing evidence if asked to.

Your Responsibilities as a Group Lead Volunteer

- Know how many Young Leaders you have volunteering in your Group and which Section they volunteer with.
- Ensure that all Young Leaders, including DofE volunteers and non-members, are appointed and registered properly with the Young Leader Team.

Our Responsibilities as the Young Leader Team

- We arrange placements for prospective Young Leaders and can support Young Leaders wanting to move to another Section.
- We will offer the mandatory Module A training regularly so that Young Leaders can complete it within 3 months of joining.
- We will offer Modules B to J once a year over a series of monthly evening sessions.
- We will support Young Leaders to find Module K (Emergency Aid) training with us or others within Scouting locally.
- We are available for Young Leaders, parents and Leaders to contact us with any concerns or queries about Young Leaders or the Young Leader programme.
- We will work with you to appoint a mentor for each Young Leader.
- We will regularly check in with each Young Leader, and contact them to discuss their post-18 options at the appropriate time.

Your Responsibilities as a Young Leader Mentor

The role of a Young Leader mentor is to support Young Leaders in person. This person should be an appointed adult in the Section Leadership Team where the Young Leader volunteers. They don't need to do a lot, just make sure to check in with their Young Leader/s, be around to answer any questions and offer advice and support with their Missions.

The Section Team Leader should agree with their Leadership Team the best suited person among them to take on this role- if there are multiple Young Leaders they can have the same or different mentors- but the

Young Leader Team can support with choosing someone if needed. The mentor should be a Team Member who generally sees the Young Leader weekly, and can be available for a quick chat at meetings if needed.

Placing a Young Leader

Starting the Young Leader Journey

Most placements will come through the Young Leader Team via Explorers or by external enquiries. In this case, a member of the team will contact you to see if you would like to add a Young Leader to your team.

If you receive enquiries directly, please contact the Young Leader Team before accepting the placement. We don't want to discourage them volunteering, but need to process them officially to ensure everyone stays safe.

Once a placement is agreed, we will share the Young Leader's profile to you via OSM. Once shared, please email your Young Leader and their parents to welcome them and invite them to join you beginning on a date that suits you all, sharing any useful information, about your programme, meeting place and any expectations you have with them too.

Uniform for Young Leaders is an Explorer shirt and necker. If your Section Team wears Group polos, t-shirts or hoodies, invite your Young Leaders to do that as well. Groups can choose to give their Young Leaders a Group necker if they would like to, but make sure all Young Leaders get the same treatment.

A Note on Scout Section Young Leaders

Just like Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs, Young Leaders can volunteer with a Scout Troop. For their benefit, we have 2 rules regarding placements with a Scout Troop-

1. Young Leaders cannot begin volunteering with a Scout Troop until they are both 14 ½ years old and have left Scouts for 6 months.
2. If the Scout Troop concerned is one that the Young Leader attended, they must have left Scouts for 12 months before returning.

Young Leaders Moving Sections or Leaving

If a Young Leader lets you know that they will no longer be volunteering, please let us know so that we can remove them from the system. Please also don't arrange moving Young Leaders between Sections without first talking to the Young Leader Team, as we keep a record of where we have spaces currently. If a Young Leader approaches you about volunteering elsewhere, we can support with this.

If a Young Leader stops attending without telling you that they've left, and hasn't responded to your initial contact about this, please let us know so that we can reach out and see if they are still intending to volunteer with us.