
Introduction

Welcome to the tenth edition of Activities eNews. As we now aim to contact more roles directly with information that affects them, in a slight change from previous enews, this newsletter will summarise communications that have gone out in the last few months. It is being emailed to ACCs/AACs Activities, County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers and those with Activities appointments. It will also be available on the Activities pages of the website.

InTouch

Following a comprehensive review and pilot, InTouch has now been launched to replace the Home Contact scheme. Full details of InTouch can be found at:

www.scouts.org.uk/intouch

Membership Database

It is now possible to record activity and nights away permits, and also specific Assessor roles, online on the membership database. This should improve both communication and the management of the scheme. Counties and Districts have been aware of this for the last few months to give them time to add this information. If you believe you have a permit or Assessor appointment that is not showing up on your record then please speak to your District or County Commissioner to get this rectified

MAPS

Manager of the Activity Permit Scheme (MAPS) has been launched to identify who is responsible for the management of the activity permit scheme in each County / Area / Region (Scotland). All Counties / Areas / Regions (Scotland) should now have someone in place as a MAPS. If not please try and ensure this is done as soon as possible to make sure you are not missing out on communication and support locally.

Full details of MAPS can be found at:

www.scouts.org.uk/maps

Website

As many of you will have seen, the look of www.scouts.org.uk has been updated. We are in the process of moving all the Activities information over to this site from ScoutBase UK. All Activities information should remain available throughout this process at www.scouts.org.uk/activities, but if you do notice anything missing or not working please do let us know so that we can rectify this.

Swimming

As part of the rolling review of all activities within Scouting the rules and guidance regarding swimming have been updated. Full details can be found in the A-Z of Activities at:

www.scouts.org.uk/a-z

Pulling

As part of the rolling review of all activities within Scouting there have been a couple of updates announced regarding pulling. Full details can be found in the A-Z of Activities at:

www.scouts.org.uk/a-z

Workshop Dates

The latest dates of national workshops to support County Assessors and Nights Away Advisers are:

Nights Away Adviser Workshops

Youlbury, Oxfordshire
11 April 2010

Bradley Wood, West Yorkshire
9 May 2010

Venue tbc
9 October 2010

Activity Assessor Workshops

Venue tbc
2 October 2010

Training and Assessment Courses

You can find details of all the activity training or assessment courses that we are aware of on the website. If you are running a training or permit assessment course that you would like us to publicise then please let us know the details.

Training course can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/training.htm

and permit assessment courses at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/permitassess.htm

Events

You can find details of all events happening within Activities that we are aware of on the website. If you are running an event that you would like us to publicise then please let us know the details.

Event details can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm

Volunteer Vacancies

Current volunteer vacancies within the UK Activities team are:

Supporting Assessors Project Team Members

The Supporting Assessors project team support County Assessors and Nights Away Advisers in their role. This is mainly through running national workshops and helping support local workshops

www.scouts.org.uk/projectteamvacancies

UK Technical Advisers

UKTAs provide reactive technical advice. Current vacancies include: Flying, Hovercrafting, Parascending and Snow Boarding:

www.scouts.org.uk/uktavacancies

Arrivals & Departures

Welcome to Ken Hughes has recently joined us as UKTA for Canoeing.

Ken can be contacted via Gilwell Park. Details can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/naas.htm

Sadly we're also saying goodbye to Geoff Rhodes who has stood down as UKTA for Flying and Julian Fulbrook who has stood down as UKTA for Canoeing. Many thanks to both Geoff and Julian for the work they have put in to these roles.

Reunion

Reunion 2010 will take place from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 September. This is an event for about 2,000 adults in Scouting. We are looking for activity centres and providers to attend the event to show what they have to offer. If you are interested please contact the Reunion Organising team to book your place as a base. Bookings for guests will be opening shortly.

gilwell.reunion@scout.org.uk

Funding Opportunities

Funding continues to be available for permit assessments, County Assessors and technical advisers running Assessor workshops. There is also now funding available for adults supporting DofE to go on DofE training courses. Full details can be found at:

www.scouts.org.uk/activityfunding

Activities Rolling Review

A reminder that there is an ongoing rolling review of the governance of all activities. If you have any thoughts or comments about any specific activities, or any resources or guidelines to support them, then please send them in to us. They will then be considered the next time the activity involved is reviewed. Comments should be sent to:

activities@scout.org.uk

National Support

Members of the UK Activities Team are very happy to visit Regions, Counties or Districts to provide support, run presentations, answer questions etc, for any area of activities. However if you wish to just discuss activities rules then please see the section on 'Activities Rolling Review' for how to let us know your thoughts. For more information email Barney Poulton and Jess Kelly at:

activities@scout.org.uk

Supporting Assessors

To further support Assessors and Nights Away Advisers in their roles, a number of Regions and Counties have been organising their own workshop days or weekends. If you were considering running such an event, there is a volunteer project team that can support you. A member of the project team can work with you in putting together the objectives and programme, attending on the day to help run the workshop etc.

To request this support for your own workshop, please let us know what it is you would like to run at:

activities@scout.org.uk

Factsheet Updates

Details of new and updated factsheets and assessment checklists over the past few months can be found on their dedicated web page at:

www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates

And Finally...

I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the past years and have always been cheered by the obvious enthusiasm out there in providing activities. Long may this continue! And let's also continue to channel this in the right direction. As entertaining as it can be to spend hours discussing the intricacies of activities governance and rules, it's not the thing that is going to continue to provide the activities that are so important. So let's keep these conversations for the pub and concentrate on those things that really will make a difference in providing more quality activities.

I would also urge everyone to ensure your records on the membership database are up to date. We are increasingly using the specific data this holds to target communications directly to the right people. This is particularly useful now that we can record permit holders and Assessors for the first time. So please make sure your data, including your email address, is up to date to ensure you can be supported in your role.

If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues of Activities eNews even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know. And thank you all for the time and energy you put into activities provision for our young people.

Linda

Linda Thelwell
UK Adviser (Activities)