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## Introduction

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Welcome to this edition of Activities eNews. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest developments and opportunities within Activities. It is being emailed to ACCs Activities, County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers and those with Activities appointments. It will also be available on the Activities pages of ScoutBase UK.

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## Nights Away Permits

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Hopefully you will all now be aware of the updates to the Nights Away Permit Scheme. These have come about as a result of a planned review of how successfully the scheme had been implemented now that it has had a chance to bed down. The aim was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme rather than bringing about major changes. All updates are based on ideas of those using the scheme, so hopefully they will make everyone's lives easier.

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/nightsaway/naps.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/nightsaway/naps.htm)

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## Prohibited Camping Directory

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The updated Prohibited and Restricted Camping Directory is now available online. It has been redesigned to allow each County to be shown as a single printable web page, which means that updates can be published as needed, rather than when the next edition is due out. If you see anything that you think needs updating, please let your County Secretary know so that they can pass the information on for publishing.

[www.scouts.org.uk/aboutus/activities/campsites](http://www.scouts.org.uk/aboutus/activities/campsites)

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## Outdoors Show 2008

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The Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show is returning to the NEC in Birmingham from 14 to 16 March 2008. As well as running activities for visitors to take part to promote Scouting, we are once again offering special ticket details for Members of The Scout Association. Full details of the show and ticket offers can be found at:

[www.scouts.org.uk/outdoorsshow](http://www.scouts.org.uk/outdoorsshow)

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## Membership Services Database

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You will be aware that we are aiming to record details of Adventurous Activity Permits and Nights Away Permits against an individual Member's record on the Membership Services System.

Due to some difficulties with the roll out of a revised web interface for the Membership Services System, the development work relating to the ability to add permits to records has been delayed. Whilst realising this is not an ideal situation, please be assured that we are working with our external providers to ensure that development work is completed and this functionality is made available.

At this time we anticipate that the functionality will not be available for at least twelve months. Until this is available we recommend that you continue to use a local system of recording both Adventurous Activity Permits and Nights Away Permits.

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## Paddle Power

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No one, not even the government, can say for sure if public rights exist in England and Wales for people who want to be in, on or around water. It seems strange but some interpretations of the law say that the water might be in private ownership and therefore those partaking in water activities may be committing a trespass!

The Welsh Canoeing Association (WCA) is currently lobbying the Welsh Assembly to introduce legislation that will confirm free access to the rivers of Wales. If passed by the Welsh Assembly, all recreations based in, on or around water will benefit from similar rights that Scotland introduced in 2003. The pressure would then greatly increase on Westminster to follow suit for English rivers.

Regardless of where you live, if you would like to add your voice to this cause you can add your name to the petition at:

[petitionthem.com/default.asp?sect=detail&pet=2856](http://petitionthem.com/default.asp?sect=detail&pet=2856)

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## Factsheet Updates

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

[www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates](http://www.scouts.org.uk/recentupdates)

## Diary Dates

Below are listed a number of activity events taking place in 2008. Many of these allow novice levels to take part without the need to bring specialist activity equipment. For a full and up to date list of activity events and dates please see:

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/activitiestemp.htm)

### Scout Inter-County Airgun Shoot 2008

National Indoor Shooting Centre - Wolverhampton  
13 April 2008

[cheshireshooting@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cheshireshooting@hotmail.co.uk)

### Pike View Hike

West Pennine Moors  
25th - 27th April 2008

[www.pikeviewhike.co.uk](http://www.pikeviewhike.co.uk)

### NSGSO Course 2008

Edinburgh  
3 - 10 August 2008

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/nsgso.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/nsgso.htm)

### NSGSO Concerts 2008

Edinburgh  
8 - 9 August 2008

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/nsgso.htm#concerts](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/direct/events/nsgso.htm#concerts)

### National Scout Rifle Championships 2008

National Shooting Centre - Bisley  
17 - 19 October 2008

[www.scouts-shoot.org.uk/nsarc2k8](http://www.scouts-shoot.org.uk/nsarc2k8)

## Flying Bursaries

The Royal Aero Club Trust has opened its bursary scheme for young people for the 2008 season. A bursary of up to £500 is available to anyone between 16 and 21 years of age wishing to progress their interest in either air sports or aviation. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2008.

[www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.html](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.html)

## National Support

A quick reminder that members of the National Activities team are very happy to visit Regions, Counties or Districts to provide support, run presentations, answer questions etc for any area of activities. For more information email the Activities team at [activities@scout.org.uk](mailto:activities@scout.org.uk)

## Free Microlight Membership

The British Microlight Aircraft Association is offering free group membership to any Air Interested Youth Group. This provides a regular glossy magazine with all the details of Microlight Flying. They are also offering a reduced Youth Full Membership of £18 to those 18 years old or under. This provides as above, but also full and unrestricted access to all the technical and membership services offered by the BMAA. To take advantage of either of these offers please write to:

Youth Membership,  
British Microlight Aircraft Association Ltd  
The Bullring, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0TT

## Workshops

Following successful pilots in the autumn of 2006 we will be running a number of County Assessor and Nights Away Adviser workshops in the spring of 2008. These will be aimed at providing peer support for Assessors, helping ensure a uniform national standard of assessment, and providing advice and ideas of the skills of assessing.

Full details of the workshops running and dates can be found at:

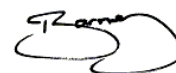
[www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/workshop.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/workshop.htm)

## Finally...

Thank you for reading this edition of Activities eNews. If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know.



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UK Commissioner  
for Programme



Barney Poulton  
P&D Adviser (Activities)



Linda Thelwell  
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Jess Kelly  
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