
Introduction

Welcome to the ninth 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 made available online on ScoutBase UK and notified to ACCs/AACs Activities, County Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisers and those with Activities appointments.

Assessor Workshops

To help support County Activity Assessors in their role, the National Activities Team are running a number of Activity Assessor workshops. These days are designed to provide updates and support to Assessors in carrying out assessments for Adventurous Activity Permits, as well as providing opportunities for peer support and networking.

Each day will include:

- Updates and training in the permit scheme and the role of the Assessor within it
- Updates and training in the skills of assessment
- Practical opportunities to try out assessing techniques
- An opportunity to have any questions answered
- An opportunity to make contact and discuss issues and ideas with other Assessors from around the country.

These workshops also act as the ongoing learning that is a requirement of the Assessor roles.

Upcoming workshops are:

- 4 October 2009 - Tyldesley, Lancashire
- 31 October 2009 - Youlbury, Oxfordshire

Full details, including how to book, can be found at: www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/workshop.htm

Regional Assessor Workshops

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. The volunteer Project Leader (Supporting Assessors), Steve Day, has now put together a team to help support these events. So if

you were considering running such an event, a member of the project team can work with you in putting together the objectives and programme for the day, finding presenters and facilitators 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

DofE Training

Throughout 2009 we have been working hard to get the new DofE training scheme up and running within Scouting. Courses on offer include: Introduction to the DofE, Expedition Assessor Accreditation Course and Train the Trainer. All are one day courses and dates and further information are available at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/dofe/news/index.htm

DofE Assessors

There has been much discussion and speculation over the past two years as to the situation with the assessment of DofE expeditions. The DofE has now introduced a new requirement for all those wishing to assess the expedition section from January 2010. This is a one day course followed by an assessment. We now have the courses up and running within Scouting and many of our members moving swiftly through the scheme.

If you have previously assessed DofE expeditions this is what it means for you: Those who are current Wild Country Assessors will have been automatically transferred across to the new scheme, whilst those who haven't will need to attend the one day training course. The courses are now being run within scouting at a cost of £15 and then will be followed by an assessment. For more info on what courses are available go to:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/dofe/news/index.htm

eDofE

The DofE are launching their new record management system in September 2009. This system will become the primary source of young people tracking what they are doing for their DofE programmes. We are currently working with the DofE office to establish the best way forward for us prior to launching this system to our members. So

watch this space; when we have details of how and when we will be rolling the system out we will let you know.

BCU Qualifications and Paddlesports Permits

As many paddlers will be aware, the British Canoe Union has been reviewing and redoing their qualification scheme for a while. They have now reached the stage where they are confirming the leadership and assessor level qualifications, which gives us the information we need to update references to them within the activity permit scheme. We are therefore currently looking at these updates as part of the ongoing rolling review of the permit scheme and will publicise any updates as soon as they are available.

Re-enactment Shooting

The rules regarding shooting within The Scout Association have been updated to allow shooting to take place with re-enactment groups, such as the Sealed Knot. Shooting with these groups will be allowed as long as it follows the guidelines of the National Association of Re-enactment Societies (NAReS). This update works alongside our existing rules and does not allow shooting at any human targets or taking part in re-enactment battles or war games.

Full details can be found in the September 2009 version of POR (9.37m) at:

www.scouts.org.uk/por

International Activities

To ease the process of running activities overseas, especially when taking part in organised events and camps, the rules for overseas activities have been updated. This change allows UK groups to take part in activities overseas run by members of the host Scout organisation under the host organisation's own activity rules. The group just needs to ensure a Leader from the UK is present who is able to stop the activity if they felt anything is unsafe.

Full details can be found in the September 2009 version of POR (9.64e) at:

www.scouts.org.uk/por

Programmes On-Line Contributors

Andy Melia, the volunteer Project Leader (Supporting Leaders) is currently looking for contributors to join his team. The focus of these team members will be to contribute programme ideas to the programmes online system. These programmes will help to support Leaders with preparing and delivering adventurous activities to young people.

Full details of the role and how to apply can be found at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/jobs/volunteer.htm

Parascending Adult Recruitment

Parascending is an amazing activity which often gives both young people and adults their first taste of flying activities. It is an activity which is very well connected to Scouting, however over the past few years numbers of adults involved in the activity have decreased.

If you would like to try the activity, and maybe get involved in one of our Scout Parascending teams, please email us with your contact details and Scout County at activities@scout.org.uk

Prospective Pulling Assessors

We are looking to facilitate the running of another ARA UKCC Level 2 course (the pre requisite for the County Pulling Assessor role) in the autumn of 2009 / winter of 2010. Please contact us if you are interested in this course so that we can set dates and locations to suit: activities@scout.org.uk

Training and Assessment Courses

A quick reminder that you can find details of all the activity training or assessment courses that we are aware of on ScoutBase UK. So if you are running a training or assessment course, let us know the details and we will publicise this for you, and if you are looking for an assessment or training in an activity, hopefully you can find what you are looking for here.

Training course can be found at:

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

and assessment courses at:

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

A Big Hello

We have two new members of the UK Activities Team to welcome. Margaret Baldwin has taken up the role of UK Technical Adviser for Snorkelling, while at Gilwell Park Andy Lannin has joined as the new Head of Activities & International Affairs.

Margaret and Andy can be contacted via Gilwell Park. Details can be found at:

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

Diary Dates

Below are listed a number of activity events taking place in 2009. Many of these allow novice levels to take part without the need to bring specialist activity equipment. The fact that we are advertising them does not mean that these events are necessarily vetted or endorsed by The Scout Association nationally. For a full and up to date list of activity events and dates please see:

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

Adult Pike View Hike

Bolton

2 - 4 October 2009

www.pikeviewhike.co.uk

Apex Extreme

Ilkley Moor, West Yorkshire

2 - 4 October 2009

www.apexchallenge.co.uk

Sussex Downsman Hike

South Downs Way

3 - 4 October 2009

www.downsman.com

National Scout Rifle Championships

Bisley, Surrey

16 - 18 October 2009

www.scouts-shoot.org.uk/nsrc2k09

National Sedan Chair Rally

Tolmers Scout Campsite, Hertfordshire

23 - 25 October 2009

www.sedanchair.org.uk

UK Technical Adviser Vacancies

In December 2009 our UKTA for Flying, Geoff Rhodes, will be retiring from his role. Geoff has worked to support air activities at a national level within Scouting for some 20 years and is very deserving of a well earned break. Thanks to Geoff for all of his hard work over and enthusiasm throughout his appointment. This does however leave us with two new vacancies within the team of UKTAs, for Hovercrafting and Flying.

There are also other roles available in the UK Activities team for UK Technical Advisers. These are volunteer roles for those with specialist technical knowledge and experience of particular activities. You can find details of the roles currently available at:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/jobs/volunteer.htm

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

Permit Scheme Rolling Review

A reminder that there is an ongoing rolling review of the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme. If you have any thoughts or comments about any specific activities, assessment checklists, factsheets or forms supporting the scheme 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

Activities Funding

There continues to be funding available to support; those being assessed for activity permits, those gaining the National Governing Body awards they require to be County Assessors, and for Counties and Regions in bringing in Technical Advisers to run workshops for their Assessors. Full details of how to apply for this funding can be found at:

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

Water Activity Funding

Trinity House grants continue to be available to support the costs of boats, equipment and training courses in water activities for adults and young people. Grants of up to 50% of the whole cost are available up to a maximum of £10,000.

A new application pack is available from Paula Binet at Gilwell Park on 020 8433 7121 or paula.binet@scout.org.uk

National Support

A quick reminder that 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. For more information email Barney Poulton and Jess Kelly at activities@scout.org.uk

And 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.



Andrew Wellbeloved
**UK Commissioner
for Programme**



Linda Thelwell
UK Adviser (Activities)