



YOUTH SHAPE SCOUTING

Get involved



#YouShape

FOREWORD

Young people working in partnership with adults in Scouting, has always been something we have been proud of. Youth Shaped Scouting not only improves the way we Scout, but also the young people involved. Learning to speak up, be heard and work towards improving something you are passionate about is an incredible learning experience for the youngest Beaver right the way through to our eldest Network member.

As part of Vision2018 we want every young person to have the opportunity to shape their experience. Youth Shaped Scouting is about young people shaping their own adventure, taking on responsibility, developing skills, making decisions and influencing their own Scout Programme. There are lots of things that you can do to help this happen; from introducing section youth forums to encouraging young people to record video vlogs to share and reflect on past activities and decisions made in the section.

These activities have been written for a young leader or section leader to use, however can be transferred and used at any level of Scouting for example at a district or county forum.

YouShape Week is a week-long focus on youth-shaped Scouting between the 1st and 7th of February 2016. We want all young people to be involved in youth forums and activities during the week. This could be anything from a county youth forum residential weekend to a 10 minute log chew at Beavers – it is really up to you. We hope that this resource will inspire you to get involved and support your involvement by giving you some great ideas!

We want you to use this opportunity to really get the conversation going about your scouting programme in addition to focusing on planning and discussing local topics that are important to the young people, the section, group, district or county. However there are some questions that we really want to know the answer to from as many of our Scouts as possible which you will find on page 4.

Let us know what you talk about and how you have incorporated youth-shaped Scouting into the Section. With your encouragement and support we hope that all young people will have the opportunity to contribute and engage both nationally and within their section to YouShape Week.

We look forward to hearing from you.

YouShape Team

“An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility onto the individual!”

Lord Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys

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This resource showcases just a few methods that you can use. There are many more games and activity's around; if you have any feedback or anything that you would like to share with us we would love to hear it. Please email youth.shaped@scouts.org.uk

NB: Where relevant, when the word 'County' or 'District' is used, it may be read as Area, Region (Scotland), or Bailiwick as appropriate.

YouShape Week

1st-7th February 2016

An activity to get involved with the National Conversation help you achieve your #YouShape Badge

The idea is to use the activities in this resource to help you plan an activity or evening that gets your young people chatting about these questions as well as (and more importantly) their own scouting programme and local conversations.



Each section has its own badge, distinguishable by the edging colour with the adult badge having a purple border.

1. **What would you tell your friends is the best thing about being a Scout? What new activities would you like to try? (Consider doing this question as the diary room chair activity) - this is for your benefit as a section leader to get ideas of what activities to run, however it also helps us to understand what our young people enjoy doing most in Scouting.**
2. **What is the most important part of the role of Patrol Leader? We really want to hear what aspect of leadership young people value most so that we can support section leaders and young people with appropriate resources.**

Visit scouts.org.uk/youshape to let us know your answers.

Get involved in the national conversation and have the opportunity to feature in Scouting Magazine as well as receiving further hints, tips and activities by giving us your feedback.

#YouShape badges are available, wear with pride and show that you have participated in the week and are helping to achieve youth-shaped Scouting. **To purchase the badges visit Scout Shops online.**

YOUTH FORUMS

Troop Forums and Patrol Leader Forums are commonly used formats to provide a space for Scouts to have their say.

A Troop Forum is a meeting of all members of the Scout Troop, either collectively or in smaller groups, and provides an opportunity for everyone to give their views on the programme and running of the Troop.

A Patrol Leader's meeting is very similar to Troop forums, but involves Patrol Leaders; sometimes Assistant Patrol Leaders, and the adult leadership team including Young Leaders.

Ideas for what to discuss at a Troop Forum

- The content of the Troop Programme.
- Camp venues and activities.
- District and County event and topics.
- If the Troop has funds to spend, the Forum could discuss what to spend these on, for example outdoor equipment.
- Fundraising ideas, for example to help subsidise the cost of an international trip, camp or activity.
- Feedback on past camps and activities (soon after the event).

These are some examples of how Patrol Leader's meeting can be used:

- To reinforce the leadership role of Patrol Leaders within the Troop.
- Opportunity for PLs to discuss any issues or concerns which have taken place during Troop Forums, and to report back to their patrols on any decisions made.
- Programme planning.
- Planning camps, including the venue and the activities.
- PLs could meet other PLs in the district to plan District camps together in partnership with the district team.



Key Messages

Though leaders are responsible for making the agreed Programme happen, Scouts who want to help organise and run activities should be encouraged and supported. Scouts could point out activities they would like to run at the Forum.

- Scouts may come out with some very creative ideas, don't dismiss ideas that you think aren't realistic but rather support the Scouts to turn their idea into something more useful. An example of this being a Scout wanting to go to Brazil on a Wednesday night meeting. Find out what that young person is interested in about Brazil and see if they want to work towards their International badge.
- Scouts can be beginning to deliver elements of their own programme.
- Scouts should take on meaningful leadership roles within the Troop – PLs & APLs should have specific responsibilities. Older Scouts play a role in teaching new Scouts new skills, or how to complete tasks and activities.
- Scouts should feel that their voice is heard and valued in the running of the Troop.
- As a leader, your role is becoming more of a facilitator as you empower the Scouts to really take ownership of the programme.
- Scouts are able to offer more realistic suggestions – discussion based approach to planning may be useful, although activity based is always preferable.
- Inform Scouts (and their parents) of opportunities open to them locally and nationally
- Allow all Scouts – not only PLs and APLs - to develop leadership skills.
- Understand that it is okay for Scouts to organise evenings which go wrong, have too much or too little planned etc., as long as they learn from it for next time. Your responsibility as a Leader is to keep them safe, not to have every meeting go perfectly to plan!

These events should be flexible and informal to increase participation and it is important that things agreed with the young people are acted upon so that they can see their opinions are having an impact, and if an activity proves too difficult to run then the reasons should be explained and an alternative activity agreed with the Unit.

QUICK FIRE ENGAGEMENT

These activities can be used to quickly gauge opinions on an issue or activity.

Snowball Fight

A fun and useful planning tool to help Scouts express their ideas.

10-20 minutes
Plain paper, scrap paper
Pens, pencils

Instructions

Everybody loves a snowball fight and this one is not just for the winter! Give all of the Scouts a piece of paper and set a topic or question for them to answer.

Which activities would you like to do at Scouts?

What theme would you like the next camp to be?

What badge would you like to do next?

Where would you like to go on our next trip out?

What country would you like to visit?

What A Million Hands projects would you like to get involved in?

Have them crumple the paper into a snowball. Divide the group into two teams on opposite sides of the room and let the snowball fight begin! When you call stop, each Scout is to pick up the nearest snowball and split up into pairs, small groups or Patrols to discuss the ideas. After this feedback to the group on the patrol/groups favourite ideas.



Cool wall

A useful tool for both Programme planning and Programme review

15-20 minutes
Blu-tack Flipchart paper Sticky notes or labels

Instructions

To prepare for this activity write a variety of activities on a sheet of labels or sticky notes and leave some blank for the Scouts to fill in. These can be activities you have already done or brand new ones.

Next, set up your cool wall by pinning up four large sheets of paper headed- seriously cool, cool, uncool and seriously uncool (you can choose your own headings if you prefer).

Working in groups, give each a set of the pre-labelled sticky notes. Explain that the Patrol Leader should lead the discussion on each activity, trying to let each young person express their opinion. Young Leaders and leaders should be on hand to assist if they feel that they need some help.

When the group has come to an agreement on the activity, one of the young people should attach the sticky note to the appropriate part of the cool wall.

At the end, show the whole section the cool wall and highlight any obvious trends right away. It is important that the Scouts feel listened to so ensure to use this information to aid Programme planning with Young Leaders.

Idea Chain

A useful tool for generating lots of Programme ideas

15-20 minutes

Glue
Sellotape
Coloured paper- cut into strips
Pens

Instructions

The idea of this activity is to get the Scouts thinking creatively.

Split the Scouts into patrols and explain that the idea is for them to build the longest paper chain that they can in a set amount of time (5-10 minutes). Each chain link must have a different activity or idea that they would like to plan or take part in whilst at Scouts- let their imaginations run wild.

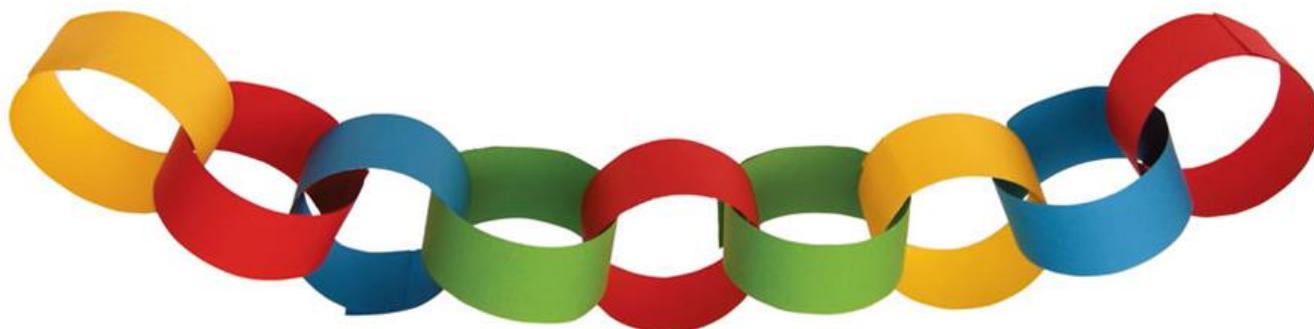
Depending on how much time you have you could ask the Young Leaders to prepare the paper links in advance or you could give the scouts a template or size dimension and let them decide between themselves who on the team should do what.

At the end of the allotted time, stop each group and ask them to stop and pick their top 3/5 ideas and feedback to the group.

Take these ideas and as a leader team (or even better, a Unit Forum) review the suggestions.

Top Tip:

You can use these chains as decorations around your hall and as a reminder of the type of activities the young people would like to be taking part in.



ACTIVITY IDEAS

Here are some longer activity ideas designed to get Scouts involved in making decisions and shaping their programme.

Bricks in the wall

An activity to help young people think about the obstacles when planning for an action to take place

30 minutes

Paper (for the bricks)
Marker pens.
Pens
Blu-tack
Wall

Instructions

Decide beforehand on an activity or adventure that you would like to do as a troop.

- Go and visit a climbing wall
- Go to the cinema
- Take a trip to the Lake District
- District camp or activity

Group the Scouts into patrols and ask them to think of all the reasons that could stop this happening or obstacles that you need to overcome before it happens. Give each group a number of blank 'bricks' and ask them to write a short statement summing the reason up and add it to the wall. Once this is finished allow them to examine the wall or elect somebody to read through the statements.

The Scouts must now work together to break down the wall with solutions. They can work together as a troop or in patrols but try and encourage them to find solutions for problems that they didn't put forward. Display the solved issues but don't add the bricks back onto the wall. This means that if any bricks cannot be removed, they are very tricky problems and may need your help.

You can use pieces of paper for the bricks or if you have the resources, this could be a 3D wall using cardboard boxes or shoe boxes and sticky notes.



Cotton Bud Debate

An activity to generate Programme ideas for the section

15 minutes +

Cotton Buds or match sticks or similar

Instructions

This activity gives everyone a chance to share their views and prevents confident speakers from overpowering other speakers and taking over the discussion.

The idea is to give every Scout three cotton buds (you could also use beads or other small objects).

Set a topic for the debate, for example; what is unacceptable behaviour? What would you like to spend unit funds on? What would you like the theme for camp to be this year?

Every time someone speaks, they have to hand over a cotton bud to you as a young leader or leader, or put it in a box in the centre of the room. If someone speaks for a long time, they could lose two or three cotton buds. This activity is to encourage everyone to contribute and not let a small number of people be the only people contributing.

Whilst the discussion is going on, you or a Young Leader should write points up on a flipchart to keep track of what is being said.



Graffiti wall

An activity to help gather Programme ideas from young people

15 minutes +

Blu-tack
Clear sticky tape
Felt tip pens
Flipchart paper
Marker pens

Instructions

Hang large sheets of paper on a wall and invite the young people to write their ideas and opinions on the sheets in the form of graffiti.

Leaders should look over the graffiti wall, and include as many of the ideas as possible when planning the Programme.



Top Tips

- Try using wallpaper as your backdrop.
- Write #YouShape in the centre of the page and write/draw around this. Take a photo and use this towards one of the challenges (towards the back of the resource).
- Share your pictures on social media via Facebook, twitter or Instagram using the #YouShape and tagging @Scouts.

Diary room chair

Set up a diary room chair to record young people's views on various subjects in an informal and fun way

60-90 minutes (with other activities happening at the same time with a base system.)

Good quality camera phone

Someone that can operate the video function on the phone and edit the clips afterwards.

Instructions

Set up a diary room chair, either in a room set aside from a main activity at a meeting or event. Note, if you ask young people to give views to camera in front of a large audience, they may give different views to those they may give in a more private environment.

Each young person will spend anything from a few seconds to several minutes in the chair or diary room. How long the activity lasts in total will depend on the format of the event and how many young people take part.

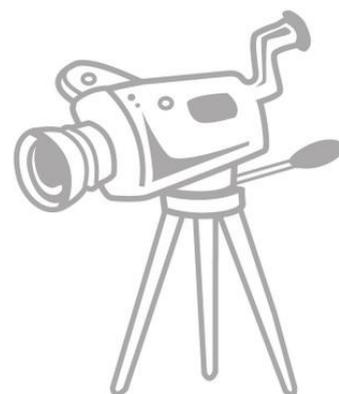
Set up a camera that records video or camcorder on a tripod in front of the chair. Have someone allocated to operate the camera phone. Young people then talk to camera and give views on any subject you like from general views on Scouting to specific opinions on how an activity went, to views on structures or badges or recent news items etc.

You can direct the whole thing by providing questions to answer or you can just let them freestyle. Be clear about the objective of the exercise beforehand and select your format to suit.

Results can be viewed later by your leader team to help you with the review process. You can also play an edited version back to the young people or to an adult audience. It is probably best to spend some time on the editing process to avoid inclusion of personal issues.

Top Tips:

- This is a great way of making memories for the young person to remember their scouting experiences and a great keepsake to refer back to.
- We would love to be able to share these experiences far and wide so don't forget to share with us using youth.shaped@scouts.org.uk or #YouShape on twitter.
- Use the phone landscape not portrait so it can be easily used afterwards.
- Make sure you have parental or guardian permissions



CHALLENGES

Get involved with YouShape week and try to do as many of the following as possible!

- Take a selfie and post on social media using #YouShape
- Take a short video and share it with us.
- Submit feedback and receive your YouShape Week certificate to display proudly in your meeting place.
- Order #YouShape badges to wear throughout 2016.
- Make sure that every person has their say.
- Think of an original way of spelling out the word YouShape
- Set up a thoughts box to allow young people to submit their ideas in writing and anonymously if they wish.
- Have one or more Scouts write a blog or piece about the evening. Send this to us for the chance to be in the next Scouting Magazine.

