

5 STEPS TO ROUTE PLANNING



NEAT CHEAT

Use laminated maps – they're more robust and the Scouts can write their route on the map itself.

Hampshire-based Scout Leader, Peter Turner shares his five failsafe tips for planning and preparing your route

Plan the steps below into your programme to help your Scouts use a map and to plan a route for their expedition or exploration. Learning to read a paper map is great skill for their future adventures, and you can be confident that, unlike GPS or sat nav, it will never run out of power or signal!

1 CHOOSING A MAP

Choose an appropriate map for the expedition or exploration. For an expedition, Ordnance Survey or similar maps with a 1:25,000 scale, where 1km = 4cm, are ideal. If doing an exploration in an urban area, a street map or A-Z may be best.

2 UNDERSTANDING A MAP

Make sure the Scouts have a basic understanding of the type of map you are using, particularly if you're using an Ordnance Survey map, or similar. Get started with this Basic Navigation factsheet from Scout Adventures – tinyurl.com/lfcnudd.

3 USING A MAP

Next time you're out and about, get your Scouts familiar with using a map. Make sure they know how to 'set a map', meaning aligning it with the landscape. They need to identify where they are on the map, then rotate the map so that other

features and landmarks line up with those they can see around them.

4 HAVING A GO

Get your Scouts to plan a short walk. Give them grid references of the start and finish points and they can do the rest! Or create a treasure hunt where they navigate their way between grid references. Afterwards ask them to review how it went.

5 PLANNING A ROUTE

Help your Scouts plan a great route that is both fun and provides a challenge. Get them to identify start and finish points, perhaps including a couple of checkpoints on the way. When organising an exploration, ask them what points of interest they want to visit and where they need to visit to complete their investigation. Encourage them to plan a route away from roads for a greater sense of adventure.

BADGE



Scout Expedition Challenge Award

OUTCOMES

By earning the Scout Expedition Challenge Award, your section will gain valuable skills and experience that will equip them for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network. They will also be one step closer to achieving their Chief Scout's Gold Award – the top award for the Scout section.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the Scout Expedition Challenge Award and the Chief Scout's Gold Award, head to tinyurl.com/j4ykyrb. For information and activities to support expeditions and outdoor skills, head to the Scout Adventures website at scoutadventures.org.uk/adult-training-and-away-days. Scout Adventures is also offering training to support leaders in delivering the Scout Expedition Challenge Award. For timings, locations and more information about the courses, head to the above website.