

SCOUT EXPEDITION CHALLENGE AWARD

10 TOP TIPS

Will Reynolds, Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts in Northumberland, shares his suggestions for planning the Expedition Challenge Award into your programme

Photography: Jo Denison



1 EXPLORE THE OPTIONS

A hike across the hills isn't the only option. Your Scouts could do an exploration, travelling to an area to carry out an investigation. Travel doesn't need to be by foot either. Explore the options with your Scouts.

2 AVOID CLASHES

When planning, check if there are any major school events that you should avoid. Check for any clashes with religious occasions or festivals as well.

3 CONSIDER THE COST

Think about the cost from the outset. Speak to local travel operators about possible discounts – you may even find an operator that will sponsor the event by offering free tickets. Fundraise together as a Group, or share some information about grants in advance for any Members you know from low-income families. Look into what's available locally and find out information about the Scout Grants Committee at scouts.org.uk/grants.

4 SHARE INFORMATION

Inform Scouts' families about the plans as early as possible including the likely cost. Some Groups publish an annual skeleton programme to help families plan, even if detailed information is not available at the time.

5 PLAN AHEAD

Make sure everyone involved is clear of the detailed plans for the event, as well as any alternative or emergency plans. If doing an expedition, consider using a route plan to record the basic information. Find a template for one at tinyurl.com/mbknuqr.

6 SPACE

If you're planning to travel by minibus, consider the extra space needed for equipment and rucksacks ensuring that gangways and exits are never blocked.

7 PRACTICE

How much training and supervision your Scouts need will depend on their age, experience, the terrain and the activity they plan to do. A practice day would help you to decide this and help inform your risk assessment.

8 OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD

Consider issuing an Event Passport to a Scout who will lead the rest of the team during the night away. This is a great opportunity for them to gain more leadership experience. The overnight venue should be aware and agree to this if the Scouts are to be unsupervised. Find more information at scouts.org.uk/FS120800.

9 BEING PREPARED

Use resources to plan a safe event and keep a copy of the Purple Card handy in case of an emergency. Make sure that the Scouts are prepared for all eventualities. Think about issuing them with an emergency card including simple steps to follow and contact numbers should they need to contact the leadership team.

10 SAFE COOKING

During the expedition, Scouts will need to cook and eat at least one hot meal. To avoid any upset stomachs, plan some time in your programme beforehand to make sure they know how to cook hygienically and safely store and prepare their meals. Make sure you're aware of any allergies or dietary requirements too. Scout Adventures are running training for leaders in running expeditions – visit scoutadventures.org.uk/adult-training-and-away-days for more information.



NEAT CHEAT

Record the route using a route card, tracing paper or on the map itself.

BE PREPARED

Seasoned Scout Leaders know the secret to any successful expedition lies in the planning and preparation that takes place beforehand. For expeditions, getting the route right is absolutely essential, so turn over to **page 22** to read Scout Leader Peter Turner's advice about route planning.

