

RoverStay

These programme ideas come from a mixture of original UK Rover programmes as well as more current Explorer and Scout Network programmes. The aim is to expand your understanding of the history of Explorers and Scout Network, and engage in a fun and diverse programme while you're on your RoverStay.

Renew your Promise

Before becoming Rover Scouts, young adults had to show a good understanding of the Scout Law, just as Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members do today. The Scout Law and Promise are still an important part of being a Scout and reflect our fundamental values; belief, integrity, respect, care and cooperation. Why not use this opportunity to renew your Promise as a Unit or Network?

You can take this one step further by learning [the British Sign Language version](#) of the Scout Law and Promise.

Improvised shelter camp out

To become a 1st Class Rover, young adults had to complete a number of requirements, including hiking for 20 miles and camping out in an improvised shelter.

As a group, build an improvised shelter using pioneering poles, rope, tarpaulin and leaves, just as Rover Scouts would have done. There are a few different types of shelters you can try. Victorinox created [a useful resource](#) that explains how to make A-frame shelters and 3m x 3m tarpaulin shelters. Once your shelter is built, settle in for a good night's sleep.

While you're sleeping out, why not do some star-gazing? A 1st Class Rover needed to have good knowledge in lots of different areas, including astronomy. The [Heavens Above](#) app and website might be able to help you understand what you're looking at.

If you're an Explorer Scout, you can also work towards your [Survival Activity Badge](#). If you're a Scout Network member, you can work towards your Survival Skills Virtual Badge.

While you're at it, you could do some more activities that contribute towards your Survival Activity Badge. How about these:

Fire and food

It's no secret that fire building and being outdoors is a big part of your Scouting experience. Well, to become a Rover Scout, young adults would have to show their Scoutmaster that they knew how to light a fire and cook a meal. Could you build a camp fire and cook your dinner on it?

Since its launch 100 years ago, Rover Scouting has spread across the world. Split into groups and each pick a country where Rover Scouting exists today. Challenge yourselves to make a traditional meal using Fairtrade ingredients from that country and cook it on your fire.

If you're feeling particularly confident, you could turn it into a cooking competition.

Badge links:

[Explorers Survival Activity Badge](#), [Explorers International Activity Badge](#), [Nights Away Staged Activity Badge](#)

[Scout Network Survival Skills Activity Virtual Badge](#)

Photography

Photography was one of the 'cultural subjects' that Rover Scouts could choose to focus on in the same way Explorers or Scout Network members might do this today.

Set yourselves a photography challenge while you're on camp under the theme 'Past and Present'.

You could:

- experiment with black and white photography versus colour photography
- find old photographs from the campsite or of the group and recreate them
- try disposable cameras and compare them to digital cameras
- take photos of the camp and surrounding areas on your mobile using different filters to make them look older
- use things you find in nature to spell out words that are significant to your Unit, Network or Rover Scouting

Badge links:

[Explorer Creative Arts Activity Badge](#)

Rover and Venture programmes

Rover Scouting was launched 100 years ago. In 1966, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts merged to form Venture Scouts in the UK. In 2002, the Explorer Scout section and Scout Network replaced the Venture section.

While you're focusing on the heritage of Rover Scouting, you could invite an ex-Rover Scout or ex-Venture Scout to explain what their programme used to be like or to run some activities they used to do.

Make sure that all the activities follow current [POR](#) and safety rules.

International Rovers

Since the start of the Movement, Scouting has spread to 216 countries and territories. Rover Scouts can now be found all over the world.

Learn about how Scouting works in other countries. You could find out about their:

- ceremonies
- Promise
- uniform
- badges and awards
- meeting places
- games/activities

You could always get in touch with a Rover Group to find out about their programme or even invite them to your RoverStay. We offer advice on international links [here](#), or you could use contacts you have through attending [international events](#) such as Moot, Jamboree or Roverway.

Top awards basecamp

The top awards for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network include:

- [Queen Scout Award](#)
- [Chief Scout's Platinum Award](#) (Explorers only)
- [Chief Scout Diamond Award](#)
- [Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)
- [Scouts of the World Award](#) (Scout Network only)
- [Explorer Belt](#)

You could run a workshop where members find out about the different awards, how they are linked and what skills they can gain by working towards them.

If you've completed some of your top awards tell others in the group about the exciting things you did along the way.

Emergency aid

To become a 1st Class Rover, a Rover Scout had to demonstrate a good standard of first aid. First aid is just as important now as it was 100 years ago. These days Emergency Aid is a Staged Activity Badge that members can start working on from Beavers and continue all the way to Explorers.

How you choose to run this activity will depend on your group's experience, as some of you may have already completed your Emergency Aid Staged Activity Badges.

You could run different bases that cover different aspects of the badge, such as how to help someone who is unconscious, bleeding or choking. Remember to look at the badge requirements and make sure you're covering all aspects of the badge and that the adult volunteer leading the bases have the relevant knowledge and experience.

Those who have completed the Emergency Aid Staged Activity Badges, could teach others or work towards a first aid award from a recognised first aid provider, such as British Red Cross or St John Ambulance.

Badge links:

[Emergency Aid Staged Activity Badge](#)

If you're a Scout Network member who also holds an adult role, you could work towards [Module 10 \(First Aid\)](#) of your Wood Badge.

Time capsule

RoverStays are all about looking at our heritage but they should also be used as an opportunity to look towards the future. Think about what Scouts in the future would want to know about Scouting now and make a time capsule. The time capsule should be full of items relating to Explorer and Network Scouting today.

You need to think about how Explorers and Network members will know where and when to find the capsule in 50 or 100 years from now.

Check out this [great activity on making a time capsule](#) for Rovers100.

Mock debate

Rover Scouts had to have a good understanding of national affairs, including local and national government, politics, the law, finance, education and the health service. Scouting has always had a focus on citizenship and community impact. It's important to understand the world around you and become an active citizen.

A debate is a good opportunity to not only engage in interesting issues that affect your world, but also to develop your communication skills. It's important to use appropriate language, be respectful of others' opinions and be non-judgemental when having debates.

Here are some ideas:

- Debate title: 'X should be the issue we focus on as a Community Project this year'
 - Each group could choose an issue they want to focus on for their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge and debate the ideas before choosing one.
- Debate title: 'Global Goal X is the most important and should receive government funding'
 - The World Organisation of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) have committed to [the Global Goals](#). Imagine that the United Nations (UN) are putting £1 billion towards one of the goals.
 - Each group could pick one of the goals that they feel should get the funding. The groups then hold a debate about which should get the money.
- Debate title: 'University and further education should be free for all'
 - In the UK, university tuition fees can be up to £9000 each year, whereas in some countries, such as Sweden, university education is free.
 - Split the group in two; one side arguing for free education and the other arguing against it.
- Debate title: 'Advances in technology are positive for the human race'
 - With rapid advances in technology it's hard to tell what the future will look like. This debate could bring out some really interesting ideas about the positives and negatives of technology.
 - Split the group in two; one side for advances in technology and the other side against it.
- Debate titles: 'Beef should be banned in the UK due to climate change impacts'
 - The [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) have said that cattle are the animal species responsible for the most livestock emissions globally.
 - Split the group in two; one side for banning beef in the UK and the other side against it.

Scouts of the World Award

From Rover Scouting to Scouting today, the development and wellbeing of humans beings locally and globally has always a key concern. You are likely to have been working on this all throughout your Scouting experience and now for Scout Network members there is a new top award that focuses on global issues and becoming active global citizens. The [Scouts of the World Award](#) (SOWA)

is a WOSM award for Scout Network only that develops skills and knowledge. It will empower you to undertake a project that will make a sustainable impact on your local, national or international community and develops your personal skills.

As a group, organise a session about global issues. First think about these two questions:

1. If you had the power to change the world, what one thing would you change?
2. What kind of characteristics would people in this new world have?

You may find that the characteristics link closely with the Scouting values. This shows how important Scouting is!

Explore the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) and think about which you feel affects you and who might be affected by others. Then come up with one positive action that can be done at an international level, one at a national level, one at a local level as well as what you can do as an individual to achieve one of these goals.