



Assistant County/Area Commissioners (Explorer Scouts)

CC: County/Area Commissioners

November 2007

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Dear Colleague

**Re: Changes to the Balanced Programme**

It seems hard to believe, but our current Programme was launched almost six years ago in the spring of 2002. Over the last four - five years, we have been listening to the views of the Movement and we are now about to introduce some refinements to the Balanced Programme. All the changes will be detailed in the December/January Explorer Scout Supplement to Scouting magazine, but we thought you might appreciate some prior notice so that you can help support the changes locally.

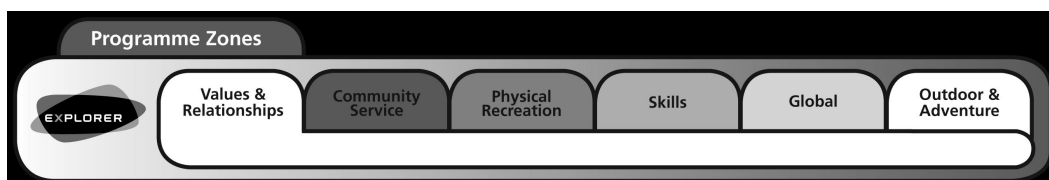
There are five areas of change and the first of these happened in October 2006, when we introduced fourteen new Activity Badges and two new Staged Activity Badges for the Section. All these changes appear to have been very well received. The next four areas will all commence in January 2008.

**Area 2: New Programme Zones**

It became apparent that for a programme that was supposed to run from 6 – 25 years it was unhelpful that each Section had a different number of Programme Zones, many with differing names. We have now rationalised the number and all Sections from Beaver Scouts to Explorer Scouts now have six Programme Zones, all with similar names. Scout Network members undertake a Balanced Programme, delivered through three Self-Development Areas which link to the Programme Zones used in the younger Sections.

**Explorer Scout Programme Zones**

The International and Environment Zones have become one Global Zone, while the Values Zone and Relationships Zone have been combined.



**The Scout Association**

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Patron HM The Queen President HRH The Duke of Kent Founder Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout Peter Duncan

Incorporated by Royal Charter Charity No. 306101

A Balanced Programme is delivered by regularly selecting activities from each of the Zones, so that over a given period, Explorer Scouts will have enjoyed a good mix of activities from every one of the Zones.

### **Area 3: Participation Awards & Activity Plus**

Stretching across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, these Awards recognise a young person's annual participation in the Balanced Programme. They can be awarded either on a young person's birthday or on the anniversary of when they first joined the Movement. Young people can accumulate the badges on their uniform and when a young person moves into Explorer Scouts from the Scout Section; they take the highest number gained in the previous Section and continue to add additional badges year on year. There is no requirement to remove each badge as the next one is awarded.

The Activity Plus Badge can be given to Explorer Scouts who choose to develop their skills or knowledge in a specific area to a higher level than a previously achieved Activity Badge. The Activity Plus Badge takes the form of a silver ring that existing Activity Badges are mounted on.

### **Area 4: Mentoring**

The Mentoring process used to support the development and learning of Explorer Scouts during their time in the Section has been simplified. Now known as "Building for Success", the process now relies less on Leaders to record achievement. Each Explorer Scout receives a simple card in their Membership Pack on which they can list details of their achievements and future targets. Leaders still have a key role to play in ensuring that the targets identified by Explorer Scouts are noted and that young people receive practical support to help them to achieve their goals.

### **Area 5: Section Forums**

As part of a drive to encourage greater use of Section forums, names and purposes of Section Forums in the Explorer Scout Section have been reviewed and now stand as follows:

**Unit Planning Forum:** Consists of Explorer Scouts and Explorer Scout Leaders. The Explorer Unit holds this forum specifically to plan the programme and activities the Unit want to do.

**District Explorer Scout Forum:** Consists of Leaders, selected Explorer Scouts and DESC. Specifically held to ensure there is a District wide programme which complements the programmes run by individual Units.

**District Explorer Scout Meeting:** Generally held once a year as more of a social gathering and get together to celebrate the previous year and to plan for the future.

To support the changes a new series of bound publications in A4 format will be released by February 2008. As we consulted so widely with the movement, we believe these are a significant improvement on the earlier publications and hope that they will now be widely used within the Section.

<b>Unit Essentials:</b>	An invaluable guide to the day to day running of an Explorer Scout Unit, with chapters covering Leadership Teams, Young People, Everyday Adventure, Communications and Image, Routine Administration and with a large appendix crammed full of useful documents.	£5
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<b>The Unit Programme:</b>	Packed full of ideas, planning tools and techniques, this new publication brings together the full requirements of the Explorer Scout Programme and lots of advice on building a challenging and inspiring programme for all members in the Unit.	£5
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<b>The Unit Programme Plus:</b>	This is a valuable addition to Programmes Online and provides both a fresh and evergreen selection of practical programme ideas, games and skill instructions for use with Explorer Scout Units – all conveniently arranged into three terms worth of programmes.	£5
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| <b>The Explorer Scout Membership Pack</b>  | An entirely new resource for Explorer Scouts themselves. The Membership Pack contains a series of linked booklets, including a Record Book, details on the Young Leaders' Scheme, the Balanced Programme, Chief's Scout and Queen's Scout Award and the Explorer Belt.   | £5 |
| <b>Charts, Posters &amp; Record Cards:</b> | A new badge chart showing all the awards and badges for the Section has been produced. In addition a large wall chart now allows Explorer Scouts to record their achievements in the programme. The Record Cards have been significantly revised and now allow more room for recording individual achievement. |    |

Full details of all publications can be found in the December/January Scout Supplement.

As we consulted so widely with the movement, we are confident that these changes will improve the experience of young people taking part in the Explorer Scout Programme and will be welcomed by Explorer Scout Leaders.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Veitch, Programme and Development Adviser, using the details above.

Yours Sincerely



Chris Brammer

UK Adviser (Explorer Scouts)