

Ely District Guidance to Young Leaders within Sections



There have been many questions regarding how to work with Young Leaders in various Sections so we felt it worthwhile to write down some guidance notes to help all.

General

The Young Leader (YL) is there to help support Leaders not be a Leader in their own right. They are there to learn how a Leader works in planning, structuring and delivering a program.

The YL is classified as a Young Person within Scouting and is therefore looked after under the same guidelines as any Beaver, Cub or Scout. They are there to assist Leaders and cannot be left in charge of a section at any time. They can and are encouraged to run Meetings whilst the leaders are there and therefore can be looked at as a valuable asset to any section. All rules of Scout Movement regarding Safeguarding and Child Protection must apply to the YL and in how they are dealt with by leaders. YLs must have reached the age of 14 and have to be registered with the District Young Leader Leader (YLL) before they can start with the group, it is the responsibility of the GSL to ensure that the YL is registered with the District YLL.

Membership fees:

We see the commitment of a YL as a valuable part of developing Leaders of the future and ask that the Groups also recognise this and pay the annual membership fees of the YL as a recognition of this commitment. As of January 2018 this fee is £48.50, the same as any other young person in a Group. As of 2016, all adults (18+) in Scouting are no longer charged membership fees.

Camps and Activities:

All camps and activities that the YL attends should be paid for by the YL. Any deviation from this should be agreed with the Leader in charge of the activity or camp or the GSL of the Group. It is recognised that in a number of cases the YL may actually be a part of the organisational team for a camp or activity and therefore it is up to the Leader in charge of the activity to make a decision on whether the YL is there to participate or to help. Any queries please contact the DESC.

Training:

The YL is encouraged to attend YL Training which is designed to help them develop as a leader for the future.

The YL is issued with an orange card (guidance on how to deal with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and issues arising) and has to attend a Module A course which deals with safeguarding and safety. Ideally this is before starting but definitely within the first 3 months of becoming a YL. These courses are provided throughout the year by District and County. The YL is then encouraged to continue the rest of their training throughout their time as a YL. There are a number of missions from this training where the YL is asked to take the knowledge given to them and run a meeting or meetings bringing their training into real life. Where possible we ask that Section Leaders help the YL's with this training along their journey.

D of E YL's:

In a number of instances there are requests for a YL to be appointed to fulfil the requirements of their D of E (Duke of Edinburgh) Service program. These Young People have to be registered with the Young Leader Leader and have to complete Module A of the training program to give them an general understanding of safeguarding and Scouting, but as their service period for D of E is short (3 months for bronze, 6 months for silver, 12 months for gold) the Young person is not expected to complete the full Young Leader training program. Insurance is generally covered by the School or department delivering the D of E and therefore the D of E YL does not have to join Explorer Scouts during this period. If the D of E YL wishes to continue their Young Leadership after the D of E period is over or join in activities with the Explorer Units then they will need to join the Scout Movement and the Group will become liable for their membership fees whilst they remain a YL. No membership fees are required for D of E Young Leaders while they are doing their service.

Age:

The YL can only remain a YL until the day of their 18th birthday where the law recognises them as an adult and therefore they must be treated as an adult. DBS (disclosure checks) can be performed from the age of 17 ½ and therefore all Leaders and Young Leaders should remain aware of this situation and plan accordingly for any activities or camps that the YL may be attending close to the time of the YL's 18th birthday.

If you need any further information on the above please feel free to contact the YLL, DESC or DC. Contact details can be found at www.elydistrictscouts.co.uk

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