

EXPLORERS



Across Nottinghamshire we want to encourage and recognise more “Top Awards” especially in the Explorer section. We know that it can sometimes be difficult to think of programme ideas, particularly those that link to the Chief Scouts Diamond and Platinum, Queen’s Scout and Explorer Belt Awards. The table below gives some starter ideas in important programme areas which we hope Explorer Scouts can then develop into their own more detailed programmes.

Programme Planning				
		Activity	Award	
Challenge Areas	World	International scouting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scouting around the world, plan activities with scout units from around the world in fundraising, awareness or share scouting ideas. International programme for a younger section, organise a series of activities for younger sections to achieve their World Challenge Award. For example, cooking food from around the world. Games from around the world, organise games played by other scout units from around the world for explorer units or younger sections. There is the opportunity to organise competitions between other units in the district or county. International networking, contact scout units from around the world and share programme ideas and values. The outcomes to this could be shared with the explorer’s wider community such as friends, family, schools and college to enrich curriculum content in these settings. 	QSA, Explorer belt, Diamond award and Platinum award.
		Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer to work with local wildlife trusts, local environmental projects or nature reserves and feedback what has been learned to family, friends, other explorer units of younger sections. Restoration projects, volunteering to help organisations such as the waterways trust or canal restoration. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant your own vegetables (if there are appropriate spaces to do so either at the scouting centre or home etc.) to either share with the explorer unit's wider family, younger sections or local food charities. Undertake energy surveys either on your home, school, scout buildings for example and suggest ways to save energy. 	
		Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and prepare delicacies from different countries and hold a theme night in the countries dress and music. Modern day technology, consider how did we live before the social media and technology we now take for granted. Invite older members of your family to talk about their younger years. Popular culture from yesteryear!! Look into different countries national sports or look how the UK national sports are now played around the world such as football, cricket, rugby etc. 	QSA, Explorer belt, Diamond award and Platinum award.
		Visits and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite emergency or armed services to talk about roles, responsibilities and potential careers. Invite organisations such as the RSPB or the Wildlife Trust to discuss and showcase projects that explorers or younger sections could get involved with. Volunteer to help maintain local scout camps such as Sherbrooke, Hoveringham or Stonepit. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
		Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's the law, discuss and argue for and against various laws we abide by. Homelessness, discuss the issues around this and look at how your unit could help in some way such as food banks for example. Community, look at how communities work together and how a diverse community integrates especially how COVID may have brought people together in the face of the virus. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
	Skills	Creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help plan younger sections activities and help lead on them. Look at a current theme that is making the news headlines. Whittling wood challenge. Go into teams and challenge the other team to produce a wooden sculpture (separate risk assessment required). Build a kite from a list of materials, encourage individual designs. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.

		Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an instruction sheet in braille and invite people who use braille to undertake an activity from the instructions. • Ground to air signals useful for attracting attention when needed out on long walks, overnight camps or expeditions. • Morse code cipher using torches useful for signalling while out on camp or expeditions. • Invite local press to cover some activities you may be working on such as forthcoming expedition for a top award. Or use social media to raise awareness of your plans and activities. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
		Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy earth ovens. • Prepare a 3-course meal using only camp stoves (gas or ethanol). • International theme cooking (choose a country and cook their cuisine). Invite friends (from outside scouting if you wish to come along and try your food). • Family BBQ. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
		Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boot camp style work out. • Couch to 5K challenge. • Sports taster. Invite a coach in to demonstrate a sport (could also plan this for a younger section). • Emotional and mental welfare activities. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
		Teambuilding and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take over day, explorers plan and run their own days activities or manage and run activities for younger sections. • Inter team sports/athletics for explorer units who a mini-Olympics organised by explorers for younger sections. • Team obstacle course. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
	Outdoor and Adventure	Camp Craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire starting and building using various techniques, tinder's and fuels. • Knots and lashings to create shelters for explorer units, leaders and younger sections. • Sleep off the ground!! Tarps and hammocks. Introduce these types of camping to friends and family who may not be in scouting to try. • Bushcraft camping using tools (knives, axes etc) to create shelters or utensils (could be undertaken on camp or in a general meeting). 	QSA, Explorer belt, Diamond award and Platinum award.

	Survival Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid and what to carry for various scenarios. You could invite the emergency services of St Johns to host the event. There are excellent apps to help with this such as Saint John's Ambulance or Red Cross first aid apps that are easy to use. • Looking after and maintenance of bushcraft/camp tools such as knives and axes for example. • Various signalling methods. • Create your own survival kits for different scenarios such as the woods, in the hills or urban environments. • Finding and purifying water techniques. 	QSA, Explorer belt, Diamond award and Platinum award.
	Peer-Led Night's Away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential for achieving top awards. • Start a project that would lead to wildlife conservation. • Organise and lead on a camp for younger sections. • Run a camp with other explorer units from your own district, county, country or international. • Organise a camp where you can only use public transport to get to your destination. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
	Adventurous Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gliding, organise a session in gliding at a local centre. • Climbing and abseiling in outdoor in indoor centres. • Escape and evasion. • Archery, laser clay pigeon shooting, laser quest, obstacle course etc. • Explorers develop wide games that encourage adventurous activities for themselves or younger sections. • Hoveringham would be a safe site to use for further activities plus you could encourage Explorer scouts to get adventurous activity permits. 	QSA, Platinum award and Diamond award.
	Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for a hike carrying overnight kit. Produce accurate route cards for a number of alternative routes to a destination i.e., Sherbrooke. • Plan a hike for younger sections and lead. • Navigation with and without a compass. Lead onto compass bearing geometry. • Night-time orienteering challenge. 	QSA, Explorer belt, Diamond award and Platinum award.