

Scout Network in Derbyshire: *what it is and how it works*

This information document is one of several aimed primarily at District Commissioners, District Explorer Scout Commissioners and other adults in Scouting interested in setting up a Scout Network or otherwise finding out more about what Network is, how it operates and how it fits into the wider Scouting provision in Derbyshire. Similar documents are available which explain how to go about setting up a new Scout Network.

It has been prepared by the Derbyshire Scout Network Team to ensure that it is locally relevant, but is based on the rules and guidance included in the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and the Network Essentials publication. The latter is available from Scout Shops and is recommended reading for anyone involved in starting a new, or running an existing, Scout Network.

For further information, please contact the County Scout Network Commissioner or Chairperson. Please see the Derbyshire Scout Network website at www.derbyshirenetwork.org.uk for up to date contact details.

Scout Network in Derbyshire:

what it is and how it works

Introduction

Scout Network was one of two new sections introduced in 2001 to replace the old system of Venture Scout Units - the other being Explorer Scouts. The Scout Network is a group of 18-25 year olds who meet in a Scout County or District and have an interest in both Scouting and their own personal development. They take part in activities, which they undertake and organise amongst themselves and meet when they want to, perhaps weekly, monthly or once a quarter. Adults aged 18-25 are eligible to register as a Scout Network member subject to a satisfactory criminal records check. Young people in the Explorer Scout section can move to the Scout Network any time between the ages of 17½ - 18½.

Young adults in Scouting

There are a number of opportunities available to young adults in Scouting; including not only Network but also Fellowship and leadership or skills instructor roles.

However, it should be remembered that the full Scouting provision for young people runs from the age of six, right up to the age of 25; with Network being the fifth and final youth section of the Scout Association. An Explorer Scout reaching the age of 18 - or any other person in Scouting aged 18-25 - should therefore be given the opportunity to join Network. Whilst there is nothing to stop young adults from taking on a leadership or other role in addition to - or, indeed, instead of - joining Network, the priority should be to allow them to have the choice of whether or not to join Network. Young adults should not be recruited into an adult role in Scouting at the expense of being a Network member.

“Scouting happens principally in Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and Scout Networks, wherever boys and girls meet to enjoy the Scout programme. The function of all the other units in the Movement is to enhance the quality of provision of that programme at a local level.”

Policy, Organisation & Rules

Network is not a support unit like Fellowship; having said that, a Scout Network can still be a useful source of additional adult help. This could be in the form of the organisation or running of particular events or activities, whilst suitable individuals could still be approached to take on a regular leader or instructor role. In fact, many Network members do take on an adult role in Scouting alongside their participation in Network, allowing them to extract maximum benefit from Scouting and continue with the award scheme.

Opportunities

Scout Network is quite different from the other four sections in the way that it operates. Network is an adult section that benefits from greater opportunities around adventurous activities, tailored personal development and programmes to suit the local membership. Unlike the other sections, it is primarily up to

“The Scout Network has a wide range of awards and badges designed to appeal to members... they offer challenge, achievement and recognition for young people.”

Network Essentials

the members (with the guidance and support of Scout Network Leaders) to create local Scout Networks with exciting and adventurous programmes that encourage others to want to join. A lot of emphasis is placed on this “leadership from within” or “run by the members, for the members” model.

Scout Network offers an enormous range of opportunities, many of which would simply not be available within other organisations - nor, indeed, as a leader or other adult in Scouting.

Programme and awards

Just as for the younger sections, Scout Network members take part in a balanced programme. For Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers the programme is broken down into a number of Programme Zones. For

Network, it is broken down into three Self-Development Areas: International, Community and Skills & Development. Each Self-Development Area has a set of objectives, outlining the experiences, knowledge and attitudes that should be gained by members participating in that particular Self-Development Area.

On a practical note, the programme around the interests of the group and Scout Network Leader providing on safety requirements or advice on

Links with other Networks - locally encouraged. There is a wide range of Derbyshire County Scout Network and

Scout Network members are able to Award. This can be started in

- but it is worth noting that membership of either Explorers or Network is a fundamental requirement of the award. There is also the Explorer Belt, a number of Partnership Awards and the Moving On Award. More recently, the Scout Association has been trialling a new award unique to the Network section - the "Scouts of the World Award".

Awards for Network members

- Membership Award*
- Chief Scout's Diamond Award*
- Queen's Scout Award*
- Explorer Belt*
- Environment, International and Faith Partnership Awards*
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards*
- Scouts of the World Award*
- Others: National Governing Bodies (e.g.: RYA, BCU); Adult Training Scheme*

should be planned by the members what they would like to do, with the support and guidance; for example, how to plan a camp or expedition.

and nationally - are to be events open to Network run by the other Counties.

work towards their Queen's Scout Network or continued from Explorers

Structure and responsibilities

Responsibility for the Scout Network provision in a County lies with the County Commissioner working with the County Scout Network Commissioner. There are two different types of Scout Network as follows, further details of which are included in the Policy, Organisation and Rules extracts in the Appendix.

1. County Scout Networks

Within a County, there may be a number of Scout Networks operating in different areas. Each Network meets separately and has their own Scout Network Leader and Chairperson, but come together with other County Scout Network members to run joint activities on a regular basis. The County Executive Committee is the parent body that provides the necessary support and resources to run the Network. It is accountable for the funds, budget, activity permits and safety.

2. District Scout Networks

Such Networks meet in a District and are supported by the District Executive and a District Scout Network Leader, who is managed by the District Commissioner. District Scout Networks are unlike County Scout Networks in that the District Executive Committee is the parent body that supports them. Districts that wish to host a Scout Network should consider a number of criteria, more details of which are contained in the document "*Scout Network in Derbyshire: setting up a new Network*" available from the Derbyshire Scout Network Chairperson or Commissioner.

Experience in Derbyshire has shown that best practice is to have individual District Scout Networks linked in to the County Scout Network provision. In either case, POR makes it clear that the County Scout Network Commissioner should be involved in the setup of any new Network - County or District - and that all Networks should be fully linked in to the County provision.

How it works in Derbyshire

In Derbyshire we have a number of Networks spread across the County. Most of these are District Networks, although a few "Local-County Networks" that were set up before the Network review of 2006 remain. The District Network model seems to work best, as it means that Network members can be fully involved in the District in which they meet and have easier access to "feeder" Explorer Scout Units.

.....
If you would be interested in attending one of the County Scout Network meetings to find out more, please email chairperson@derbyshirenetwork.org.uk

Each District or Local Network has its own identity and programme. Many have come up with a unique name and logo, which are then incorporated into a website and branded clothing.

However, all members of any District or Local Scout Network are also part of the Derbyshire County Scout Network and are encouraged to take part in County Scout Network events, such as the annual County

Ball, Alton Towers Camp (our own national event), offshore sailing trip and the NetEx Challenge (a series of regular joint Network-Explorer events). A lot of informal programme sharing also goes on, with individual Networks opening their up events and activities to others.

All Network members are entitled to have a say in how their Network is run - at both a Local/District and County level. Local and District Networks have their own arrangements for this, which normally consist of having a mini-Executive Committee, electing a Chairperson and sharing the programme planning and organisation. At a County level, regular meetings are held at varying locations around Derbyshire. All Local and District Networks are expected to have at least one representative (normally the Chairperson) in attendance, but all members are entitled to attend. The meetings take place approximately every other month and are designed to act as a forum for ideas and feedback from the membership. County-coordinated events, activities and recruitment initiatives are planned. The meetings are also important for disseminating information to Network members across Derbyshire via their representatives.

In addition, contact information is gathered for all Network members in the County and regular communications sent out via email. The Derbyshire Scout Network website at www.derbyshirenetwork.org.uk is used as a further tool for communicating with current and potential members, and there is also a Derbyshire Network group on Facebook, which is used as a secondary communication tool and as a way of promoting events. There is also a quarterly newsletter, which is published on the website and is emailed out to Network members, other adults in Scouting and external organisations. All members are encouraged to contribute to each of these.

Sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter and/or monthly Network updates by emailing secretary@derbyshirenetwork.org.uk

The Derbyshire Scout Network Chairperson leads the County Scout Network Committee in the organisation and running of the Network programme, supported by the County Scout Network Commissioner and Leaders. The Chairperson and Commissioner work very closely together on the programme and development of the Network across the County.

Key Contacts

County Scout Network Commissioner: Lucy Robinson 07895 475117 / csnc@derbyshirenetwork.org.uk

County Scout Network Chairperson: Dan Weaver 07742 833724 / chairperson@derbyshirenetwork.org.uk

Appendix

Policy, Organisation and Rules: the sections relevant to Scout Network

The following are extracts from the Scout Association's POR relevant to the Network section. Some paragraphs have been edited to include only the bits relevant to Network and those areas of particular interest or importance have been highlighted. The full document is available from the national website.

District Scout Networks

Rule 4.9 District Scout Networks

- a. District Scout Networks are part of a District's provision of Scouting.
- b. A District Scout Network consists of a number of Scout Network Members.
- c. All District Scout Networks are required to be open to male and female membership except in special situations. Special situations include those where there are specific cultural or religious requirements for a single sex District Scout Network
- d. The age range of the Section is from 18 years to 25 years old. There is flexibility in the joining age. The age for moving from the Explorer Scout Section is between 17½ and 18½ years. The leaving age is upon reaching 25th birthday.
- e. The District Scout Network should have opportunities for the members to take part in the decision making process. Any forum or committee should have both Scout Network Members and the District Scout Network Leader working together.
- f. Scout Network Members wear the approved Scout Network, Sea Scout Network or Air Scout Network uniform with distinguishing emblems and scarves as described in Chapter 10.
- g. The following minimum standards are laid down for District Scout Networks:
 - Leaders** - every District Scout Network must have a District Scout Network Leader appointed in line with POR: The Appointment Process.
 - Training** - the training of Scout Network Members must be in accordance with the Association's official publications for the Section.
 - Camping** - every Scout Network Member must have the opportunity of attending a camp every year.
- h. The District Commissioner, with the District Team, is required where necessary to assist a District Scout Network to reach the required standard.
- i. If a District Scout Network fails to reach the minimum standard for two consecutive years it may be closed by the District Commissioner with the approval of the District Executive Committee.
- j. If a District Scout Network fails to reach the minimum standard for three years it must be closed.

Rule 4.10 Joint Units

Whilst formal Joint Units are not permitted between Explorer Scout Units or Scout Networks and sections of Girlguiding UK, joint activities are encouraged.

Further advice and information is available from the Scout Information Centre.

Rule 4.15 The Formation and Closure of District Scout Networks

The opening and closing of Scout Networks is the responsibility of the County Commissioner in consultation with the County Scout Network Commissioner and appropriate District Commissioner.

Rule 4.20 Suspension of District Scout Networks

- a. Suspension is a purely temporary measure.
- b. A District Scout Network may be suspended by the District Commissioner in consultation with the District Executive Committee and the District Scout Network Leader.
- c. Suspension may also be the consequence of the suspension of the District. In such a case the County Commissioner may direct that the District Scout Network will not be suspended but attached to a neighbouring District or to the County as appropriate.
- d. In the event of suspension all District Scout Network activities must cease and all members of the District Scout Network are automatically suspended as if each were individually suspended.
- e. During suspension no member of the District Scout Network may wear uniform or badges.
- f. A District Commissioner who suspends a District Scout Network must report the matter with full details to the County Commissioner.

Rule 4.24 Management of the District Scout Network

- a. District Scout Networks are not autonomous organisations. They are part of a Scout District, which acts as the District Scout Network's parent body.
- b. Scout Districts delegate some authority to the District Scout Network to allow them to hold property and equipment and admit people to membership of the District Scout Network subject to the policy and rules of The Scout Association.
- c. The District Scout Network is led by the District Scout Network Leader and managed by a committee of its Members and Leader acting together. The committee is accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District Scout Network.

Rule 4.25 The Constitution of the Scout District

- c. All elected and constitutional bodies of The Scout Association at Headquarters, County, and District should have, as full voting members, at least two young people between the age of 18 and 25 years old.
- d. This policy as a matter of good practice, should also be applied to any ad hoc, short or long term working groups or committees.
- e. The District Scout Council
 - ii. Membership of the District Scout Council is open to:
 - all members of the District Scout Network;
- f. The District Executive Committee
 - i. The District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network in the District.
 - ii. The District Executive Committee consists of:
 - Ex officio members**
 - The District Scout Network Leader;

- xi. The District Executive Committee is responsible for:
 - promoting the development of Scouting in the District and arranging for harmonious co-operation with other organisations;

h. The District Team Meeting

i. The District Team, comprising the Explorer Scout Commissioner, all Assistant District Commissioners, District Scout Network Leader, District Scouters and Chairman of District Scout Fellowships, meet as frequently as necessary under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner.

ii. The purpose of the District Team Meeting is to:

- review the progress, standards and effectiveness of programmes of Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network in the District;
- plan a programme of visits to Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network;
- plan any programme of District events deemed to be necessary to supplement Scouting in the Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network;
- keep the District Executive Committee advised of the financial requirements of the training programme in the District, including Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network;

Rule 4.44 Responsibilities of Appointments in the Scout District

c. District Explorer Scout Commissioner

- maintain effective links with the Scout Network.

d. District Scout Network Leader

i. A District Scout Network Leader must be appointed for any District Scout Network.

ii. The functions of the appointment are to:

- Assist the District Commissioner with the running of the Section;
- Provide technical advice on the operations of the District Scout Network;
- Promote the involvement of Scout Network Members in the running of the Section;
- Maintain effective links with all Explorer Scout Units.

Rule 4.53 Responsibility for the Programme in a District Scout Network

a. A District Scout Network Leader, working with a District Scout Network Chairman is responsible for the detailed programme of a District Scout Network.

b. There should be effective operation of the District Scout Network Committee.

County Scout Networks

Rule 5.7 The County Scout Network

a. The Scout Network is part of a County's provision of Scouting.

b. The Scout Network consists of all Scout Network Members in the County.

c. This rule is left intentionally blank.

d. The age for moving from the Explorer Scout Section is between 17½ and 18½ years.

e. Members cease to be a Member of the Scout Network on their 25th birthday and should be encouraged to take a new role in Scouting.

f. All Members aged 18 or over must satisfactorily complete a 'Personal Enquiry' (unless otherwise stipulated).

g. Scout Network Members may meet as local Scout Networks to carry out activities.

h. Members are supported by the Scout Network Commissioner and County Scout Network Leaders.

i. The Scout Network must have opportunities for the Members to take part in the decision making process. Any forum or committee should have both Scout Network Members and Leaders working together.

j. Members of the Scout Network wear the approved adult uniform with distinguishing emblems and scarves as described in Chapter 10.

k. The following minimum standards are laid down for Scout Networks:

- **Leaders** - every County Scout Network must have a County Scout Network Leader, who must be appointed as per POR: The Appointment Process.
- **Training** - must be in accordance with the Association's official publications for the Section.
- **Camping** - every Scout Network Member must have the opportunity of attending a camp every year.

l. The County Commissioner, with the County Team, is required where necessary to assist the Scout Network to reach the required standard.

m. If a County Scout Network fails to reach the minimum standard for two consecutive years it may be closed by the County Commissioner with the approval of the County Executive Committee.

n. If a County Scout Network fails to reach the minimum standard for three years it must be closed.

Rule 5.8 Local Scout Networks

a. Local Scout Networks comprise a number of Members of the Scout Network, meeting together and organising a series of activities for Scout Network Members.

b. All Local Scout Networks are part of the County Provision.

c. The opening and closing of local Scout Networks is the responsibility of the County Commissioner in consultation with the County Scout Network Commissioner, County Executive Committee and District Commissioners.

d. Local Scout Networks may be linked to a Scout District, Group, Activity Centre or other provision of Scouting, but are not a formal part of that District, Group, Activity Centre or provision. A formal agreement between the two is not required, however, discussions between them are encouraged.

e. All Local Scout Networks are required to be open to male and female membership except in special situations. Special situations include those where there are specific cultural or religious requirements for single sex Local Scout Networks.

f. Each Local Scout Network is required to nominate a Co-ordinator from their membership whose role is to liaise with the County Scout Network Commissioner.

Rule 5.12 Suspension of Scout Networks

a. Suspension is a purely temporary measure.

- b. Any County Scout Network or local Scout Network may be suspended by the County Commissioner in consultation with the County Executive Committee and County Scout Network Commissioner.
- c. Suspension may also be a consequence of the suspension of the County. In such a case the County Commissioner may direct that Scout Network Members will not be suspended but attached to a neighbouring County as appropriate.
- d. In the event of suspension all Scout Network activities must cease and all Scout Network Scouters are automatically suspended as if each were individually suspended.
- e. During suspension no Member of the Scout Network may wear the Scout Network uniform or badges.
- f. A County Commissioner who suspends a Scout Network must report the matter with full details to the Regional Commissioner.

Rule 5.15 Management of the Scout Network

- a. The Scout Network is not an autonomous organisation. It is part of a Scout County which acts as the parent body.
- b. A Scout Network is led by a Scout Network Commissioner and managed by a committee of its Members and County Scouters acting together. The Committee is accountable to the County Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the Scout Network.
- c. The Scout Network Commissioner is assisted and supported by County Scouters in the delivery of the programme.

Rule 5.16 The Constitution of the Scout County

- c. All elected and constitutional bodies of The Scout Association at Headquarters, County, and District should have, as full voting members, at least two young people between the age of 18 and 25 years old.
- e. **The County Scout Council**
 - i. The County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports Scouting in the County. It is the body to which the County Executive Committee is accountable.
 - ii. Membership of the County Scout Council is open to:
 - Ex officio Members**
 - County Scout Network Commissioner;
 - Chairman of the County Scout Network Committee.
 - Chairmen of any other Scout Network operating within the County.
 - Nominated Members**
 - the number of persons nominated annually to the County Scout Council from each of the following categories is decided by the County Scout Council:
 - County Scout Network Members nominated by the County Scout Network Conference.
- f. **The County Executive Committee**
 - i. The County Executive Committee exists to support the County Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Districts and the Scout Network in the County.
 - ii. The County Executive Committee consists of:
 - Ex officio members**
 - County Scout Network Commissioner;
 - xi. The County Executive Committee is responsible for:
 - the raising of funds and the administration of the County's finance and property, including the Scout Network;

Rule 5.35 Responsibilities of Appointments in the Scout County

c. County Scout Network Commissioner

- i. A County Scout Network Commissioner may be appointed for the Section.
- ii. The County Scout Network Commissioner will normally be a Scouter experienced in the Section and will normally have completed a Wood Badge for the Scout Network Section.
- iii. The functions of the appointment are to:
 - assist the County Commissioner with the running of the Section, including the personal support and encouragement of County and District Scout Network Leaders;
 - visit Scout Network meetings and provide technical advice on their operations;
 - promote the work of the County Scout Network Conference;
 - arrange for the organisation of County events;
 - ensure that County Leaders' Meetings are held and to carry out such other duties as may be delegated by the County Commissioner;
 - maintain effective links with all Scout Districts.

h. County Scout Network Leaders

- i. County Scout Network Leaders may be appointed to fulfil certain functions in relation to the Section.
- ii. The duties of such appointments will be defined by the County Scout Network Commissioner at the time of the appointment.

Rule 5.42 Adult Responsibility for the Scout Network Programme

- a. The County Scout Network Commissioner is responsible for the detailed programme of Network. They are supported by County and District Scout Network Leaders.
- b. They should take account of the special needs of individual Members, the Balanced Programme, and badges where appropriate, and the Section's method as outlined in current Section Handbooks.
- c. Attention must be paid to the requirements of safety and to any Rules governing activities.

Rule 5.43 Member's Responsibility for the Scout Network Programme

- a. Progressive responsibility for planning and decision-making is an important element of the Programme.
- b. Effective operation of local Scout Network decision making structures is essential.