

## HOW TO PLAN A LINKING EVENT

Support young people moving on from Scouts to Explorer Scouts with linking events. Linking events are a fun and interactive way for Scouts to find out what they've got to look forward to, feel more confident about moving on, and work towards their Moving On Award (Scouts to Explorers) and Membership Award for Explorers.

These events can also be a great way for Scouts to finish off what they need to do for their Chief Scout's Gold Award, and for Explorers to work towards parts of their top awards or Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Scheme missions.

Here are some things to think about to help get your events planned:

### 1 Decide who will take the lead in planning the event

This could be the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, the Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts), Scout Leader, Explorer Leader or the Explorer Unit collectively.



**Remember, Explorer Scout Young Leaders could work with leaders to plan the event, for Mission 4 of their Young Leaders' Scheme training.**

### 2 Create an organising team

Remember to keep things youth shaped by including adults and young people from both sections.

### 3 Clarify your objectives to help you focus on what you're trying to achieve.

What do you want Scouts to learn about Explorers? Are there any badges or badge/award requirements that Scouts want to complete? What can Explorer Scouts (including Explorer Scout Young Leaders) get out of it? What do the Scouts and Explorers want to do? Are there any skills that would be useful for Scouts to develop before they move on?



**An Explorer Scout Young Leader could attend or organise a Patrol Leaders' Council to get ideas from the Scouts for the joint event.**

### 4 What sort of event will it be?

Will it be an evening, a day or a weekend event? It could be anything from a wide game or a BBQ, to a weekend camp or expedition. Are there any Explorer or Scout events being planned already that could be opened up to the other section? What ages of Scouts will be invited (eg 13+)? Is there District funding you could access?

### 5 When and where will the event take place?

The Scout meeting place, a campsite, a local activity centre or somewhere else?



**Remember to plan events around times when Explorers won't be revising or doing exams.**

### 6 Work out the details

Decide on responsibilities within the team, and think about drawing on expertise of other volunteers and parents/carers in the District. Consider having someone in charge of communications. Make sure you have enough volunteers to support on the day.

### 7 Promote the event

This could be through letter or email directly to parents/carers, or through information passed on by the Section Leader. Make sure that the leaders have been involved. The event could be shared on District website and social media.

### 8 Capture the event

Make sure to record the event using photos or video (be sure to get relevant consent from parents/carers beforehand). You could then use this to share the experience with other Scouts in your District, through District communication channels. You could also share your story with your County/Area/Region or even nationally, to inspire others.

### 9 Evaluate

Assess how the event went, and then, after a few months, review whether it achieved the objectives. You could talk to young people who attended and look at any available data about Scouts moving on to Explorers.

### 10 Next steps

Think about how the event could be developed or changed. Are any other linking events needed to support moving on?

