

10 things every Scout Leader should know about the Scout Network (but were afraid to ask!)

You've heard the name, but never really known what it is. Let us explain what it's all about...

1. A bit about the Scout Network.

The Scout Network is the oldest youth section of the Scout Association. The Scout Network is made up of male and female Scouts aged 18 to 25 years old. Scout Association Members over 18 years old are no longer automatically members of the Scout Network, so you have to "opt in" to join the Scout Network.

2. We do Scouting.

The Scouting philosophy underpins the programme of the Scout Network. Unlike the other youth sections, the emphasis is less about badges and awards and more about ensuring that all young people experience a quality programme covering a wide range of subjects. To get the right balance, the programme and activities are based on 3 areas: Community, International, Skills and Development.

3. We don't just go down the pub.

We have an active and varied programme that rarely has anything to do with the pub. Being a member of the Scout Network give us the opportunity to take part in a wide range of exciting activities from traditional scouting skills, to life skills such as cooking and DIY, through to outdoor activities including kayaking, rock climbing and sailing. We work with other young people and help within the local community ... the list of our activities, projects and events is almost endless. Our programme is decided and run by our members, so we really get to do what we want!

Scout Network members have the opportunity to achieve some of the highest personal achievement awards for young people in the UK, including the Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. You also have the opportunity to work towards gaining recognition from many governing bodies, as well as developing new skills and building on existing ones.

So we are too busy for the pub – honest!

4. We are not just there to run events for everyone else.

We enjoy running events for other sections but that's not the main purpose of the Scout Network. We have our own programme of events that are run for our members.

5. You can be a member of the Scout Network and be a Leader.

You have up to 90 years to be a Scout Leader - why not take the opportunity to carry on Scouting for yourself while you still can! When Explorers and Young Leaders turn 18 years old, they can become Leaders AND be a Scout Network member at the same time. Once you are 18 years old, you can only gain the Queen Scout Award by being part of the Scout Network. As we are all adults, the activity rules allow us to do much more. If it can be done safely – we can do it as a Scout Network Member.

6. It's no longer just a County thing.

The Scout Network is now a District provision, just like Explorer Scouts. This means the responsibility for the Scout Network is down to the District Commissioner and the District Exec. We still work closely with the County Network Commissioner and the other Scout Networks. We also take part in County events such as Peak Assault and the Exodus event.

7. Anyone can join us.

You don't have to have been a Scout or Guide to join us! It's open to anyone who is 18 to 25 years old. Many of our members are new to Scouting.

8. We have a leader.

We have an appointed leader who is over 25 years old and is responsible for ensuring that we run safe activities and that our programme is balanced.

9. We travel the World.

We go on expeditions to places as inspiring as Chile, Libya and Italy. Many of our members take part in helping to run the Jamboree.

10. We are here to tell you more.

If you want to know more speak to a Scout Network Leader, or drop an email to csnc@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk or come along to one of our meetings – you are always welcome.