

What are District/County events for?

Supplement programme for new / inexperienced leaders

- Ropes/knots
- Map reading
- Bear Grylls Day
- Improve camping skills
- More skills on nights away course
- More motivation – hands on
- Skills database

Provide activities which require specific skills/qualifications

Activities

- Archery
- Caving / pot-holing
- Shooting
- Climbing
- Crate Climbing
- Camping Skills / basic skills
- Hill-walking
- Water activities

Activities which could be delivered by Districts / Counties (SAS)

- Camps (basic skills)
- Hill-walking
- Caving

Competitive / Participative

District Level

- Athlete badge – non-competitive whole District (all sections) – good achievement
- Swimming Gala/events – enjoyed as a competitive event
- Inclusive for all – handicrafts team and individual – open to all and is competitive and participative
- Camping competition – FUN as well as competitive
- Added later – included football as young people do enjoy this

Coming together to provide critical mass / economies of scale

“We should be providing activities by demand, not tradition”

Benefits

- Sense of size / expanding horizons
- Sharing ideas
- Comradeship
- Sharing skills
- Doing things you couldn't otherwise do
- Competition

Disadvantages

- Same old activities – getting stale / out of date
- Resource heavy
- No competition as often the same groups compete/win the same events

Events and activities

County Camp (all sections) x ✓

District Camp ✓

Camping competition ? –

Rafting / Water ✓

Southern 50 / Chiltern 20 ✓

Chess ?

Swimming – District only

Dominoes

Monopoly

Bowling

5-a-side-

Night Hike

Visits

New ideas / activities

Video Olympics (District)

Connect 4 / Board games

It's a Knock-out

Laser Tag – District

Sports (new sports)

Practical steps for increasing take-up for events

Group 1

DON'T ASSUME

Leaders

- Broad spectrum involved in planning
- Communication – good explanation of event
- Dates published in advance and when an event has been published it must happen
- District and County events spread out

Young People and parents

- Organisers to produce a document that can go to young people directly (Russ note: possibly editable by groups for specific details?)
- Young people able to attend without a leader present
- Use 21st Century communication (website, texting etc)

Attendance

- Consider finance (all elements included in costings)
- Event relevant and well-organised

Group 2

District activities – 100% take-up?

- Running “District” events for a small number of groups is OK:
 - Groups not attending a District activity is OK if they are already offer that element of the programme – not OK if it’s “can’t be bothered”
 - By demand – find out what is not being delivered in group programmes (District discussion / taster activities / Internet/communication / questionnaire)
 - Opportunity for groups to run things for other groups
 - Leaders from the groups participating should be involved in planning so they learn the skills and are committed to the event happening
 - Should be open to all if they want
- Leaders might have had bad experience of event previously – badge it as a “new event” by changing it
- Offer the option for District adults to look after young people / parents able to bring teams or groups
 - Parents need to know in advance who this will be and meet them – easier for parent helpers as they could help at section meetings
 - Opportunity for recruiting parents (Russ not: almost 50% of leaders started as parents)

Making it easier for leaders

- Personal visits – better if groups are used to visits from ADCs (shouldn’t be surprises for leaders)
- Plenty of notice (especially if costs are high so staged payments can be organised)
- All-inclusive costs ideally – no add-ons (unless catering etc is to be done locally)
- Annual headline dates
- Letters to young people provided to leaders by events organisers (editable for some details if necessary)
- Issuing events passports – do section leaders understand this process?

Supporting the Section Leaders – meetings/visits/personal support

What kind of meetings – and why?

- Section meetings
 - must be well-chaired (formal/informal / informal after formal)
 - for: sharing ideas, gripes, feedback from events, plan District events, POR changes (should be communicated separately as POR only changes once per year now)
- District ADCs meetings
 - Aware of “gaps” – identifying leader recruitment needs
 - ADCs should be invited to GSL meetings to make links
 - Co-ordinating events
 - Encourage new organisers
 - ADC cross-sectional link meetings
 - Joining up sections for activities
- Regularly visiting sections – to meet/encourage new leaders (are we there to “inspect programmes” or not?)
- Skills days

Making meetings more effective

- Meetings should be for planning – support should be more individual
- Value contributions with concrete results
- Minutes should be actioned in advance of next meetings (does anyone check this before the meeting?)
- Inform GSLs of attendance / non-attendance
- Representatives if section leader unable to attend (Russ note: all leaders invited by default?)
- Cross-sectional meetings
- Appointments Advisory Committee should give details and dates of section meetings to inform new leaders
- Nice venues (and incentives?)
- Short meetings to be conducted by Skype?
- Email out the minutes (quickly afterwards and again in advance of the next meeting)

Supporting the Supporters (ADCs and District Teams)

Structure of the County team

Group 1

- An ACC 6-14 and an ACC 14-25 would improve section links and plan progression
- International }
- Media }
- County Scout Active Support Unit } could be an individual or team
- Permits Holders co-ordinator }
- Special needs }

Group 2

- Sectional ACCs – no
- ACC 14-25?
- Activities – yes
- Programme – yes
- Specialists
- ACC Young Leader Training

How often do ADCs need to meet each other – do the County need to lead this?

Group 1

Bi-monthly/termly – not necessarily led by the County, but there should be representation

Group 2

ADCs (DCs) meet in sections termly/twice a year
Important to be social, organise joint programmes and support each other

Who should organise “County events”

Group 1

Should be run by those happy to do so:

- Specialists
- ADCs

Succession planning should be factored in

Group 2

Planning Ahead

How should we plan District/County diaries - Group 1

Enfield

- Section annual planning meeting
- SWOT analysis
- Kids ideas (what was good, what would be good)

Southgate

- Settled – by exception
- ?co-ordinated?

CCI

- Termly meeting + review x section liaison
- With ref to County events + ✓-✓ + BTW Districts

How should we plan District/County diaries - Group 2

- Annual events (C20 / S50) – publish dates 12 months in advance (at the end of previous event: next year’s date is...)
- Big “set piece events” (County camps) – dates out 2 years in advance (organisers may need longer to plan)
- Diary synchronisation: rolling update in ADC meetings (annual planning means some events get much more notice than others)
- Communication:
 - North Circular - “new dates added” section / What’s been published
 - Through section meetings and GSL meetings
 - Synchronised Google Calendars – County/District: giving Districts the relevant codes to display on their sites
 - Don’t assume leaders know what an event is – describe it, don’t just rely on the name!

Achieving “buy-in” through planning

- Deposits
- Minimum support required in District meeting
- Give leaders from groups jobs to do
- Reminders
- Make sure there’s a “wow” factor to events
- Sell to leaders
- Circumvent leaders where there’s the option to do so (Russ note: online bookings for individuals?)

County Team Suggestions

Beaver Scouts

- Suggested structure:
 - ACC Programme & Development / ACC Activities (specialist activities) – no sectional ACCs
- Wish list:
 - Support
 - More recognition (i.e. not just cutting and sticking)
 - Some County events for Beaver Leaders specifically

Cub Scouts

- Need to retain sectional ACCs – without them meetings would probably not even happen.
- Interaction should take place at County meetings
- Districts that need support usually don't turn up to events or even ask for help. How do you support them?

Scouts

- Section needs a champion/advocate at County level
- Should be inspiring ADCs to work with SLs to achieve Chief Scout Gold Awards
- Encourage sharing between Districts
- ADCs need a clear point of contact at County level
- Prefer 6 - 10.5 / 10.5 – 18 model (rather than 6-14 / 14-25)

Explorer Scouts / Scout Network

- Provide one activity per term
 - Spring – Southern 50
 - Summer – Monopoly Run
 - Autumn – A.N. Other
- Include supporting leaders aged 18-25 (whether they identify as a member of Scout Network)
- Young Leader training
- Specialist units (e.g. mountaineering)
- DoE Assessors – making sure they are shared around the County

District Commissioners

- No link between DCs and ACC Team at present
- If no ACC in post, there needs to be a clearly identified co-ordinator who circulates the appropriate information
- Two key areas:
 - Adult Support: training/development
 - Programme & Activities: youth programme activities
(this relies on DCs appointing the right people to ADC roles)
- Issuing a directory of County personnel would help

Activities / Training / Other

- Taster weekend of activities which require permits (shooting, archery, climbing)... with follow-up how to obtain the permit (where/when etc)
- Activity / Skills Database
- Specialist advisers / activity teams
- Basic skills – provided at District level
- County specialist support at District/Group events