

Young Leaders' Scheme Programme plans plus



Module H

Item code FS460007 March/08 Edition no 2

0845 300 1818

As you probably remember, the aim of the Balanced Programme is to maximise young people's scope for personal development.

If you have been an active Young Leader for some time now, you may have experienced running a Balanced Programme over the course of an evening for your Section. In this module, we will build on those skills and you will be introduced to tools and methods that will help you to run a Balanced Programme over a longer period. Hopefully after this, you will be able to return to your Section and take an active part in running a Balanced Programme over the course of three months.

Planning a Programme

Coming up with imaginative programme ideas can be difficult. Luckily there are several different idea generating tools you can try. Why not also try brainstorming with some others? Brainstorming is a technique where you let your mind go blank and write down any ideas that come into your head – no matter how silly they may be. You can then remove the impractical suggestions and develop the others.

Get a bag of junk from your house. Include all sorts of bits and pieces e.g. toothbrush, cassettes CDs, chalk, strange hat, pen, video tape, camera, coins, telephone, yoyo, a Swiss army knife, fork, spoon, cuff links, make up, false moustache etc. Tip them all out on the floor and try to generate six ideas from each item. Take the toothbrush for example. Here are some suggestions that came to my mind when I thought about 'tooth':

- Dental hygiene

- Visit a dentist
- Find out how false teeth are made.

Other ideas came from thinking about 'brush':

- Painting and the artist badge
- Painting and decorating
- Brushing leaves in the garden and gardening

Hopefully you get the idea. Some of the suggestions above may not be practical, but most are and could be included in your Section programme.

Ensuring a Balanced Programme

Once you have generated some programme ideas, you will need to use a Balanced Programme Checker to make sure that over a period of time you are covering all of the Programme Zones. Ask your Section Leader to show you the Balanced Programme Checker that they use. This makes it very easy for you to see if you are giving the young people in your Section the maximum opportunity for development.

Longer term programme planning

When planning a programme for longer than one evening meeting, you need to take a number of things into consideration:

- The time of year (for outdoors activities)
- The weather (for outdoor activities)

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

- What events your Group, District or County/Area have planned
- What Challenges or Activity Badges your Members want to complete.

When you have considered all of these elements, you need to ensure that the programme is balanced across the three-month period and that each of the Programme Zones has been included in your long-term plan.

What have you learned in this module?

When you have completed this module, you should feel confident about returning to your Section. You should feel at ease helping out even more with programme ideas and putting them into practice. The two programme planning modules should help you to make a start on the first two missions that the scheme asks you to undertake.