



Dear <NAME>

Our Programme – The key to fun, challenge and adventure

The high quality balanced programme that we provide to our members is all about fun, challenge and adventure. From time to time, it's important to ensure that the programme continues to be of relevance to all young people aged 6 to 25.

Over the last 4 years we have reached out to more than 12,000 members to identify what they want from our programme. The results have been very interesting and have provided us with a foundation from which to make a number of updates to ensure that what we provide reflects the needs of young people today and the communities in which they live.

The purpose of this letter and the enclosed leaflet is to draw your attention to the key updates that are being made to the programme for Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts that will be introduced in early 2015. Later in 2015, updates will also be made to the Scout Network.

- **Activity Badges and Staged Activity Badges**

We asked young people and adults which new badges they wanted to see and what they thought of existing ones. As a result the badges have been refreshed for each section. Some will have their requirements updated, some will be brand new and some will be discontinued.

- **Partnership Awards**

These will be discontinued but the themes of the 3 partnership awards will be incorporated into other badges and awards.

- **Programme Zones**

These will be replaced by three themes – Outdoors and Adventure, Skills and World. Outdoors and Adventure will be more evident in the programme, for all sections. We have recently launched training courses to train or refresh leaders in Scouting Skills, with the aim of helping to improve confidence in order to allow the programme to focus more on outdoors and adventure in the future which we know engages young people.

- **Programme Resources**

These will be renewed to reflect the updates to the programme and available from Scout Shops Ltd early 2015.

The Scout Association

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW **T:** +44 (0)20 8433 7100 **F:** +44 (0)20 8433 7103 **E:** scout.association@scout.org.uk **W:** www.scouts.org.uk

Patron: HM The Queen **President:** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder:** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout:** Lt Cdr (Hon) Bear Grylls RN

Registered Charity numbers 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

- **Top Awards**

These will be more challenging for young people to complete but easier to deliver and understand. The Chief Scout's Awards will require greater commitment across a range of activities that better reflect the variety of the Scouting programme. The Challenge Awards will be updated and improved, with elements such as teamwork and youth involvement added. The Personal Challenge will be reinstated, but with clear guidance for both adults and young people for setting the challenges.

- **The Queen's Scout Award and Explorer Belt**

The requirements were clarified with some minor changes, and support for young people completing these awards, and adults who support them, has improved. This was launched in January 2014.

- **Youth Involvement**

The new programme resources will offer practical guidance on how to incorporate youth involvement in all sections. Activities are available on Programmes Online (POL) by searching 'youth involvement', and a fully functioning toolkit will follow.

- **The Young Leaders' Scheme**

The content and supporting resources will be updated, making the scheme easier to use, more interesting to deliver and more challenging for young people. Young Leaders can now gain external recognition from Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) for completing the scheme which they can present to potential employers, universities or colleges.

- **Scout Wings and Scout Wings for Canopy Training**

These will be discontinued with many of the requirements being covered in alternative awards.

- **Scout Network**

The review of the Scout Network concluded in July 2014 and the changes to the programme and structure will be communicated separately. It is envisaged that there will be a transition period from May 2015 to November 2015.

What happens next?

All of the updates being made to the programme for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts will be made available via the website in early 2015. Resources will be available from Scout Shops Ltd to support you, along with an extensive list of questions and answers.

There will be a transition period from January 2015 to September 2015. You will be able to continue using any programmes you have already planned, and give young people who have started Awards the chance to complete them using the current requirements.

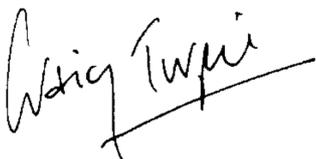
Young people who have started the Chief Scout's Awards using the current requirements but will not complete it by September 2015 will be provided with specific guidelines on how to complete it. Young people who start their Chief Scout's Award after January 2015 should follow the new requirements in their entirety.

Scouting for All

By September 2015 everyone should have adopted the updated programme for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Adopting the updates to the programme is vital if we are to achieve our Vision for 2018 of Scouting for All.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the important role you play in delivering Scouting to our more than 434,000 youth members and to ask for your support in implementing the updates to the programme in 2015.

Yours sincerely



Craig Turpie

UK Commissioner for Programme