

The Troop and its links



Item Code FS315019 Aug/02 Edition no 2

0845 300 1818

Linkage between the Sections is the responsibility of all Leaders in all Sections of the Movement. The Scout Leader, in particular, will need to build good relationships and effective links with both the Cub Scout Pack and the Explorer Scout Section. These are the two Sections that involve the Scout Troop in transfers. This factsheet will give you some information on how such links can be established and maintained.

The Moving On Award

The Moving On Award is intended to help young people move between Sections as smoothly as possible. It allows a young person to get to know and participate in the next Section whilst still having the security of attending their familiar Section.

Links with the Cub Scout Pack

Start by getting from the Cub Scout Leader a list of all the 9 year old Cub Scouts with their dates of birth. Send each one a birthday card from the Troop on their tenth birthday with a message indicating that you look forward to seeing them as a Scout within the next year. This will help to build the anticipation for a Cub moving to the Troop, as well as letting them know that you know about them.

Try to visit the Pack often enough so that all the Cub know you by name (the one you are called in the Troop) and, if at all possible that you know

them by name as well. If you can greet potential Scouts by their names it will create a lasting impression.

Encourage the Scouts, when appropriate, to offer their services to help with the Cub Scout Pack, possibly on a rota, as part of their visiting the Community Programme Zone or towards their Community Challenge Award. Cub Scouts will be much readier to come to the Troop if they already know some of the Scouts they may meet in the Troop.

The older Scouts could plan and run a series of activities for the Pack, towards fulfilling requirements for the Community Programme Zone or Challenge Award.

If you are invited to a special Pack event, make sure you go to it. Good relationships with the Cub Scout Pack are built with time and effort.

The Moving On Award for a Cub moving to the Troop is:

- Attend both Cub Scouts and Scouts for 4-6 weeks and during this time take an active part in the Troop Programme.
- During this time in the Troop, work for the Scout Membership Award.

Don't forget that although the young person is growing up and becoming more independent, their parents/carers will be used to the Cub Scout Section and its practices. A Scout Leader should

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ensure they meet and talk with the parents/carers about the young person and explain about the move to the Troop and how it operates. You will be grateful for their support, so start by building the relationship and gaining their trust right away.

During the time the Cub is doing the Moving On Award, their time involved in Scouting may double, so they and their parents/carers will need reassurance it will not have an adverse affect on their school work, sleep etc. It would be helpful to give both your prospective Scout and their parents/carers, information on the requirements for the Scout Membership Award. This will help their understanding of the even greater commitment it takes to be a Scout.

Always bear in mind when deciding which activities are run with new young Scouts, the differences both in maturity and size between 10 year olds and 14 year olds.

Some Scouts leave not at the time of transfer but a month or two later, after they have tried the Troop and decided it is not for them. Follow up all such Scouts and try to find out why they left. You may not be able to bring them back to the Troop, but having heard their comments, you will know if the reason can be rectified or it is something outside your control, like a previous interest on the same night.

Give some thought, by talking to the Troop, to the ways in which new Scouts are allocated to groups or Patrols. Most Cub Scout Leaders try to send new recruits to the Troop in groups of three or four. If they are then split up for a sustained length of time; this makes the whole exercise rather pointless. One alternative is to keep all the new recruits together in one group or Patrol (perhaps with a suitable older Scout) for a short time) until they are used to the Troop environment.

Invite the Cub Scout Leader to occasional Troop activities, particularly if a former Cub Scout has achieved some major award. If you are camping fairly close to home, you might also invite the Cub Scouters and older Cub Scouts to visit you for a day or afternoon in camp.

Links with the Explorer Scout Section

When a Scout moves from being a Scout to becoming an Explorer Scout, there are more opportunities to be involved in Scouting in different ways. Whilst in itself this can provide more challenge, it also means they will need lots of support and information when they are approaching their time to transfer from the Troop.

Although it is possible to move to Explorer Scouts anytime between 13½ and 15 years of age, the usual would be that when a Scout is approaching their 14th Birthday, they would begin to take part in the Scout Moving On Award.

The Scout Moving On Award

The requirements are:

- Check that you are registered with your District Provision.
- Talk with your Scout Leader about the options available in Scouting.
- Take part in 3 activities with the Unit or Units that are of interest to you.
- Talk to the prospective Unit Leader or Leaders that are of interest to you

There are several options for how a young person can be an Explorer Scout. The responsibility for the management of provision for Explorer Scouting lies with the Scout District. This means that all the information on this provision will be available at District level. The Scout Leader will

be able to help the Scout follow up on the option(s) that is most attractive to them.

- There may be an Explorer Scout Unit attached to their existing Scout Group
- There may be several Districts Units that meet on various nights in a variety of venues.
- There may be a Unit with a specific interest e.g. Camp Site, Activity Centre, Gang Show.
- There may be a Young Leaders' Unit – Explorer Scouts who primarily wish to be Young Leaders working in the Beaver, Cub or Scout Sections. It is suggested, however, that a Scout leaving their Scout Troop does not return to it as a Young Leader for at least 6 months. It is also recommended that there are no more than 3 Young Leaders helping with a Section at a time.

You will see that a Scout moving to the Explorer Scouts has the right to know what is available to them, in order to make their own choices. The Scout Leader therefore, will need to keep themselves aware of the current situation of the District's management of the Explorer Scout Section. The building of relationships with this Section will often mean looking wider than within their own Group, especially if it does not have an Explorer Scout Unit. This is an ongoing responsibility and may mean the difference in keeping a Scout in the Movement and ensuring a smooth transfer to Explorer Scouts

Linking activities could be organised at both Group and District level. The wider contact and support from the District should ensure a wider choice of activities, at varying levels, to suit all ages and types in Explorer Scouts.

Even if Scouts move into Explorer Scouts not related specifically to their Scout Group, it is good practice to maintain contact. It might be possible for them to revisit the Troop and share experiences e.g. attendance at a Jamboree, when a special Award is gained e.g. Chief Scout's

Platinum Award or just to talk about what they do in Explorer Scouts.

Explorer Scouts, themselves, should be involved in making the transfer of Scouts to their Section as supportive and enjoyable as possible. Any recruitment or PR activity should be short, punchy and preferably well illustrated with slides, photographs, videos etc. The team supporting Explorer Scouting in the District should have early information on when Scouts are likely to come up to their Section.

It may be possible for Leaders in the Scout Section to offer to help on an Explorer Scout activity or camp. This will give a much greater insight into how Explorer Scouting works.

During their time in the Troop, encourage your Scouts to contribute their ideas and give them responsibility – the opportunities to develop and prove themselves and even to make mistakes! The chance to have real responsibility is the best preparation for Explorer Scouting where this feature of Scouting will be expanded and developed further.

A good Leader has knowledge of the Balanced Programme, the Challenge Awards and other badges that operate in their linking Sections. This helps to ensure progression of activities but also shows a respect for how the Purpose of the Association and the young person's development physically, socially, intellectually and spiritually is encouraged in each Section. Many linking activities with the Explorer Scout Section can help with fulfilling visits to various Programme Zones or for Challenge Awards. For a Scout Leader, knowledge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme could also be useful as it is much more closely linked with the Awards in the Explorer Scout and Scout Network Sections.

Finally, **talk** and **listen** to your Scouts. If you give them your time and a real love of Scouting, that will often go a long way to ensure they want to continue their Scouting journey. They may even decide they wish to give something back of themselves – what more can you ask?

Other links

Group Awards

These Awards are to promote the working together of Sections in a Scout Group. There are 3 Awards:

- International Friendship
- Environment
- Faith

They are a good way to develop a Group, rather than just a Sectional, identity. They promote communications and effective relationships between Sections whilst working for a common goal.

Remember the Group Scouters' meeting. One of the main functions of this meeting is to discuss and plan links between the Sections. It should also discourage and help prevent the repetition of programmes and methods in the different Sections. -

Try to form links with other Troops in the District from time to time. There are various ways of doing this - joint meetings, an exchange of Scouters (short-term, long-term, or even permanent), inter-Scout/Explorers visits and exchanges.

Other District meetings might bring together the Scout and Explorer Scout Sections. This gives, not only an opportunity to exchange information on both Sections, but for Leaders to meet and socialise with each other.

When a Scout leaves the area, make sure that he or she is successfully transferred to a new Troop near their home and not lost from the Movement altogether. Many Scouts will move locally within the District. If they move further afield, contact The Scout Information Centre (0845 300 1818) who will be able to give you or them a contact name and details in their new area. Equally, if you get transfer information from Headquarters, be sure to follow it up as soon as possible. This also applies to direct entrants who show an interest in joining the Troop.