**School engagement plan for secondary schools**

**Objectives**

* To explain what Scouts and Explorers is to young people aged 11 to 18
* To promote an open day and opportunities for young people to join Scouts locally.
* To encourage young people aged 11 to 18 to join Scouts

**Things to think about**

* If you’re planning on visiting a class, year or school assembly, please read the Assembly Guide first
* Your presentation/visit should be interactive - get the young people involved, use props and run fun activities. Take a look at the activity plans on the brand centre for some ideas.
* Have you thought about speaking to a smaller group instead of running a whole school assembly? For example, PSHE classes, year group assemblies, a group of young people working on their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
* Could you run a lunchtime drop-in taster session where young people can take part in activities like marshmallow pioneering or fire lighting?
* Or run an after school taster activity where young people sign up for a more adventurous activity like climbing, archery etc.
* Peer pressure can affect young people who may be unsure/nervous about showing too much interest in front of peers. Make sure you give out contact details to everyone so they can get in touch if they want more information.
* Formal uniforms can put some young people off joining. Try wearing branded clothing instead.
* Remember to use age-appropriate activities at taster events. Don’t make the mistake of running a typical Beaver/Cub activity like marshmallow toasting over a tea light!
* Risk assess each individual activity, the school may want to see your risk assessments.
* The school may want to see our Public Liability Insurance which is available from the Support centre.
* The school may need to see individual DBS certificates for all adults running activities.

**Who are we?**

Introduce yourself.

**Why are we there?**

Explain that you’re there to talk about what Scouts is and the amazing opportunities available to young people.

**Ask the audience:**

**Who knows what Scouts is?**

A club for both boys and girls

Scouts is for 10-14 year olds, Explorers is for 14-18 year olds

Learning skills, doing adventurous things, making great friends and having fun.

**Is anyone already involved in Scouts?**

**What do we want to ask them to do?**

Come along to our open evening on <Date> at <Location> with your parent / guardian / responsible adult to have a go and find out more.

Take along paper leaflets or electronic versions for schools to include in their newsletters or email out to home (depending on the school’s preference).

**Important things to get across**

* Scouts have fun
* We play games and do activities making and learning about lots of different things
* Learn new skills that can help you in the future - get into uni, get jobs etc.
* Make friends
* Go on visits and trips to lots of different and interesting places
* Go camping and enjoy the outdoors
* Earn badges
* There are Scouts all over the world
* Opportunities for trips to other countries

**Example activities to engage young people**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Age range** | **How long?** | **Things to consider and include in your risk assessment** |
| Mini archery | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 30mins | * Injury from scissors * Injury from missile * Appropriate environment |
| Make a mini canoe | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 30mins | * Injury from sticks * Injury from scissors * Option to use water to float canoes |
| Make a catapult and fire a missile | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 30mins | * Injury from missile firing * Injury from bulldog clips * Injury from elastic bands |
| Build a 3D landscape | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 45-60mins | * Injury from scissors * Injury through misuse of glue |
| Put up a tent competition | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 30mins-60mins | * Appropriate environment * Trip hazards * Injury from tent poles/pegs/mallet |
| Fire lighting and backwoods cooking | Suitable for 6-14yrs | 30mins- 60 mins | * Appropriate environment * Safety equipment eg. bucket of water, strong gloves. * Access to first aid kit * Food allergies |

Further details for the activities are available on the brand centre.