



Supporting Scouts: Water-Based Training

Report to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

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Scouts and the Outdoors

Scouting and the outdoors go hand in hand, offering young people a chance to explore and foster a deep connection with nature while developing essential life skills through adventure. Through a variety of activities scouts learn self-reliance, teamwork, and environmental stewardship. The outdoor setting provides a unique classroom where scouts can practice leadership, problem-solving, and resilience. Scouting in the outdoors is not just about fun; it's about growing into responsible, capable individuals who appreciate and protect the natural world. For many young people, taking part in water-based activities is a highlight of their outdoor experience, providing a unique blend of adventure, education, and personal growth. From teamwork to leadership, the experiences gained through activities like rafting, kayaking, sailing, and canoeing are invaluable.

Benefits to Young People

Teamwork and Collaboration

One of the primary benefits of water-based activities is the emphasis on teamwork. Whether it's paddling in sync during a canoeing expedition or coordinating movements while sailing, Scouts learn the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. This collaborative effort fosters communication skills and teaches Scouts how to support one another, which is essential in both scouting activities and everyday life.

Leadership and Responsibility

Water based activities also provide numerous opportunities for Scouts to take on leadership roles. For instance, steering a boat or leading a group requires decision-making and responsibility. These experiences help young people develop confidence in their abilities to lead and make informed choices under pressure.

Problem-Solving and Adaptability

When being in the outdoors in the UK water-based activities often involves navigating challenges such as changing weather conditions or unexpected obstacles in the water. Scouts learn to think on their feet and adapt to new situations quickly. This problem-solving ability is a crucial skill that can be applied in various aspects of life, from school to future careers.

Physical Fitness and Coordination

Being active on the water is a fantastic way for Scouts to stay active and improve their physical fitness. Activities like rowing, swimming, and paddleboarding enhance cardiovascular health, build muscle strength, and improve coordination. These physical benefits contribute to overall well-being and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Environmental Awareness

Being on the water provides Scouts with a unique perspective on the natural world. They learn about the importance of preserving aquatic ecosystems and the impact of human activities on these environments. This awareness fosters a sense of responsibility towards nature and encourages Scouts to become advocates for environmental conservation.

Confidence and Self-Esteem

Successfully navigating a challenging activity can significantly boost confidence and self-esteem. For young people. Overcoming fears, mastering new skills, and achieving personal goals on the water help Scouts develop a positive self-image and a sense of accomplishment.

Lifelong Skills and Memories

The skills learned are not only useful in scouting but also in everyday life. From basic skills to advanced navigation techniques, these experiences equip Scouts with practical knowledge that can be used throughout their lives. Additionally, the memories made during these activities often become cherished moments that Scouts carry with them long after their scouting journey ends.

How your Grant is Making a Difference

For many groups across the country, access to these amazing activities is only possible due to the commitment of adult volunteers who not only give their time to lead our programmes, but also take on the time to undertake the required training. The generous support offered by The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights has enabled us to provide grants to Scout Groups to contribute to the costs of permits and training for water-based activities. This year we have offered grants of £250 to 16 groups across the UK.

This has meant that many of those receiving funds are from communities that are applying for support from WCS for the first time. Not only does this benefit the young people of that group, but often the trained volunteers are also able to support other local groups who wish to give water based opportunities to the young people in their sections. Below are examples of ways in which your support is making a difference.

To qualify as a Sheltered Water Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Coach and become a SUP Permit Assessor to enable training and assessment of permits in Cumbria. Once we have permit holders we aim to introduce more young people to another fantastic watersport. As a qualified SUP Assessor more adults and young people are able to experience Paddleboarding It will provide our Scout Group with enough team members to run our water activities programme for all in the group.

Our Scout and Explorer leader has a passion for the outdoors. They have progressed through personally kayaking qualifications and is now at a stage where he wishes to progress this to instructing groups of young people. In completing this project, our leader will be able to offer canoe/kayak experiences directly to over 1000 young people within our district. The leader will further be able to support other leaders to gain skills and experience in class C settings where Scouts has access to a boat-house on the Monmouthshire-Brecon canal.

The leader volunteers with an Explorer Group which directly accesses the area with most economic deprivation. This funding therefore directly supports young people in IMD levels 3 and 4 in accessing adventurous activities that they currently don't have the opportunity to undertake.

At the moment our leader has his sheltered water canoe coach award which is great for our County WASU (Water Active Support Unit) and he can assess our B1 permits but we would like to broaden our team ability to take young members further afield and into bigger waters for expedition purposes as well as starting to develop him to becoming a B2 assessor in future for which this course is a step on the journey. The leader regularly takes lead organising roles at our county water events which sees hundreds of young people take to the water in kayak, canoe, SUP and bellboat. He is a younger member of our water assessing team and I'm keen to have him in a strong position to continue our County assessing abilities.

Following the change in rules we are no longer able to take Young People on SUPs which had formed part of our water based activities, in combination with canoeing and kayaking. Having this course and permit will allow us to take our own group and others out of SUPs which are a very efficient way for us to get the Young People involved in water based activities. SUPs provide a very cost-effective and easier way for us and young people to access water based activities and therefore the course and permits obtained will allow us to continue to offer this activity to hundreds of young people who will attend our events during the period of the permit.

I will be able to take out mine and other Scout groups. We are in a deprived area and new group. Also I could continue to help teach at the centre and add to the diversity, as a Black Muslim Woman.

By having three more volunteers trained for the water, we are able to take more young people out safely on the water. The volunteers involved will not only be for our own group but also other groups within our district. This means that by training only three people benefits a large amount of young people in our district who may not otherwise get a chance to go out on the water and experience a wide range of activities.

Our group owns Kayak equipment, this training will enable the group to more easily provide this adventurous activity to our young people. Adventure, physical activity and teamwork