



# Supporting Scouts: Water-Based Training & Permits

## Report to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

May 2025

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**#SkillsForLife**





# Scouts and the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

## 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 to a number of groups around 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.

Training/Permit	Impact
Stand Up Paddleboarding Open Inland B1	Aim: To qualify as a BC Sheltered Water SUP Coach and become a SUP Permit Assessor to enable training and assessment of SUP permits in Cumbria. Once we have permit holders we aim to introduce more young people to another fantastic watersport.. Outcome: I will be a qualified SUP Assessor so more adults and young people are able to experience Paddleboarding.. Benefit:
Stand Up Paddleboarding River B1	
Canoeing Open Inland B2 Canoeing River B2	At the moment James 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. James regularly takes lead organising roles at our county water events which sees hundreds of youth members in Lincolnshire 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.
Power Boating B2	The remainder of the costs will be funded personally and with contributions from our County and District where we can apply.
Power Boating B2	It will provide our Scout Group with enough team members to run our water activities programme for all in the group and our associated Mersea Maurauder ESU (6-18 year olds). We have sailing and SUP equipment and need Powerboat operators to provide safety and training crews.
Power Boating B2	It will provide our Scout Group with enough team members to run our water activities programme for all in the group and our associated Mersea Maurauder ESU (6-18 year olds). We have sailing and SUP equipment and need Powerboat operators to provide safety and training crews.
Power Boating B2	It will provide our Scout Group with enough team members to run our water activities programme for all in the group and our associated Mersea Maurauder ESU (6-18 year olds). We have sailing and SUP equipment and need Powerboat operators to provide safety and training crews.
Power Boating B2	It will provide our Scout Group with enough team members to run our water activities programme for all in the group and our associated Mersea Maurauder ESU (6-18 year olds). We have sailing and SUP equipment and need Powerboat operators to provide safety and training crews.
Canoeing Open Inland B1 Kayaking Open Inland B1 Stand Up Paddleboarding Open Inland B1	By having three more volunteers trained for the water, we are able to take more young people out safely on the water. Water activities play a large part of our summer term across all our sections as we have the Rickmansworth Aquadrome local to our area. The Rickmansworth Aquadrome provides a wide variety of water activities such as SUPs, kayaking, KataKanus, canoeing, coracles and raft building to name a few. 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.
Stand Up Paddleboarding Open Inland A Stand Up Paddleboarding River A	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 very efficient way for us to get the Young People involved in water based activities.



Stand Up Paddleboarding Open Inland A	The County Mountain Activities Team (CMAT) provide several opportunities throughout the year for young people to participate in activities during residential stays. This summer we are taking c.80 attendees to North Wales for adventurous activities including land based climbing and walking as well as water based activities. Previously we had incorporated SUP with our other water activities allowing a wider programme set. Following the introduction of the permit scheme we can no longer offer this, despite having ready access to equipment via some of our volunteers. 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.
Stand Up Paddleboarding River A	
Kayaking Open Inland B2	
Kayaking River B2	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
Stand Up Paddleboarding River A	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.
Dinghy Sailing B2	Not only will this benefit the applicant in developing their skills, but also increase capacity of getting young people afloat and support the running of RYA Courses for them.
Canoeing River B1	xxxx is both a Scout and Explorer leader within Monmouthshire district with a passion for the outdoors. Benedict has 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, xxxx will be able to offer canoe/kayak experiences directly to over 1000 young people within Monmouthshire district. xxx will further be able to support other leaders to gain skills and experience in class C settings where Monmouthshire scouts has access to a boat-house on the Monmouthshire-brecon canal. xxxx volunteers with Relentless Explorers which directly accesses the area of Monmouthshire 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
Canoeing River B2	xxx is an active participant in the South Wales SWAT events
Canoeing Open Inland B2	At the moment xxx has her sheltered water canoe coach award and sheltered water SUP coach award which is great for our County WASU (Water Active Support Unit) and she can assess our B1 permits. She has also been assisting Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in how they're assessing SUP permits. 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 her to becoming a B2 assessor in future for which this course is a step on the journey. xxxx is a keen paddler and is dedicated to Scouting, regularly leading sessions at our county water events which sees hundreds of youth members in Lincolnshire take to the water in kayak, canoe, SUP and bellboat. She is our water team finance person successfully applying for grants to help us renew our kit. She is a younger member of our water assessing team and I'm keen to have her in a strong position to continue our County assessing abilities.
Canoeing River B2	
Canoeing Open Inland B2	xxx has his sheltered water canoe and kayak coach award which is great for our County WASU (Water Active Support Unit) as well as Lincoln District Water Activities team for which he is a District SASU manager. 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. xxx regularly leads sessions at our county water events which sees hundreds of youth members in Lincolnshire 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.
Canoeing River B2	This is the third application for this evening, all of which are quite similar. This trio have been working on the paddlesport for a number of years and support each other through the various courses they have done so far which increases all of their chances of success and I'm keen to continue this if possible. The balance of any costs will be supported by the applicant personally and also at County and District levels where possible.
Kayaking Open Inland B1	
Kayaking River B1	to enable me to complete my paddlesport leader qualification and achieve a kayak permit, allowing me to take groups of young people on the water once the warmer months arrive.
Stand Up Paddleboarding Sea B2	This training will allow progress to a B2 Sea SUP assessment.