

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Decide on a discussion/feedback topic
2. Split the young people into small groups (4-6)
3. Tell the young people what the topic is and ask each young person to come up with an answer and keep it to themselves.
4. Get each of the young people to sit at a table all facing South except the second young person who faces North.
5. Ask all the young people except the first young person to put on headphones/ear defenders.
6. The young person without ear defenders (first young person) has to mouth their suggestion/idea to the second person.
7. Once they think they have it, they have to turn around and try to mouth it to the next young person and so on, until it reaches the end of the row.
8. At the end of the row they have to say what the idea is.
9. After this the game repeats and the leaders record the various ideas/opinions shared. Record the variations as both the original idea and final idea indicate the young people's preferences

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Ear defenders/headphones
- Tables
- Seats

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. The idea behind this is to get the young people to create their idea of a great camp (as in layout and features)
2. Split the young people into small teams (around 4 per team)
3. Distribute resources evenly
4. Ask the young people to design their ideal camp
5. Ask the young people to explain their designs
6. Record the key ideas they have come up with.

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Cardboard
- Colouring pens
- Tape
- Scissors
- Kebab Skewers

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Create the YAYNAY tarpaulin(s)
2. Split the young people into groups (6-8)
3. Get the young people to grab part of the sheet and stretch it out until it is tight.
4. Get the leader to then ask a question they would like feedback on (needs to be a yes/no question)
5. Leader throws tennis ball into middle of sheet
6. The young people have to deliberate with one another, discussing ideas and reasons why they should yes or no.
7. Young people then have to manoeuvre the ball through one of the holes in the sheet
8. If the participants do not discuss their ideas whilst choosing yes/no, encourage them to do so at the end by asking them why they chose this.
9. Use pen and paper to make notes on young people's opinions. The activity will allow you to hear about the young people's various perceptions

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Large sheet or tarpaulin with two tennis ball holes, one labelled yes, one labelled no
- Tennis Ball
- Paper and Pen

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Do you need more support in completing YL Missions?
- Would you like to do more international trips?
- Do you think we should do more in the local community?

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. The young people have to come up with an idea for an activity or game for camp/sectional meetings
2. Split the young people into small groups
3. The young people then sit at the tables and one of the young people puts on a blindfold
4. The young person with the blindfold either has to spell the idea out themselves or to work as a team with the rest of the group to spell out the idea without telling the rest of the group what the idea is.
5. The young person spells it out with either alphabet soup or magnetic letters, whatever the leaders prefer from tidying point of view.
6. Record the ideas that the young people spell out
7. Clean up!

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Table
- Chairs
- Tins of alphabet soup/Magnetic letters
- Blindfold/scarves
- Cleaning equipment

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Divide section into small groups (4-6)
2. Pour out paint into paint trays
3. Get the young people to take off a shoe and sock and ask them to stand their foot in the paint and then stand on the page
4. Cut out the footprint and get them to write a country they would like to learn about or for older sections a country they would like to visit.
5. If you have done the YouShape tree activity why not stick the cut-out feet at the bottom of the tree.

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Paper
- Colouring pens
- Scissors
- Blu-tac
- Poster Paint
- Paintbrush
- Roller paint tray
- Cleaning wipes

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Choose a country and pick some objects to represent it
2. Put these objects in the suitcase, the young people then have to guess what country you are trying to represent.
3. Ask the young people to research the countries and look at locations to visit, campsites and activities they would like to do in this country.
4. They then present these ideas back to the leaders.
5. As a follow up activity get the young people to research countries they would like to visit on an international camp and present their ideas to the rest of the group and leaders the following week.

WHO FOR?

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Suitcase
- 3-5 objects to represent a country
- Paper
- Scissors
- Access to the internet

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Create 3 or 4 tubes with slit in top where small plastic chips/discs can be pushed through (like fundraising tube)
2. Introduce discussion topic and allow the young people to put forward ideas
3. Take 3 or 4 ideas and label the columns with these ideas
4. Get the young people to vote on these ideas over the next few weeks by giving them a plastic disc every week.
5. Take the opinions expressed and incorporate them as best as you can into the programme.

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Small plastic discs/chips
- 3 or 4 tubes with cap
- Paper and pen for signs

POTENTIAL TOPICS

- What would you like to do at our next camp?
- What would you like to do next week?
- Where would you like to learn more about?
- Where would you like our next camp to be?

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Divide young people into groups and distribute resources amongst them
2. Cut up paper into acorn shapes and allow the young people to colour them in
3. Ask the young people to write their idea for helping to grow the section. How to improve the section overall. Example question, how do we get more Beavers? How do we make Cubs more exciting for new members?
4. Get the young people to write their ideas on their acorn
5. Place the acorns on the Youshape tree and once these ideas are taken on board remove them from the Youshape tree.

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Paper (with an acorn template)
- Colouring pens
- Scissors
- Blu-tac
- Poster Paint

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Divide young people into patrols/small groups
2. Give the young people an allowance of monopoly money and an exchange rate to sterling.
3. Give the young people a country or region where the camp can be held and ask the young people to plan and budget for a camp based on the resources they have been allocated.
4. Ask the young people then to present their ideas in their groups or patrols back to the section
5. The aim of the activity is to help the young people learn to budget and plan.

WHO FOR?

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Monopoly money
- Internet access and means of accessing the internet

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT

1. Divide the resources amongst the young people, one page each.
2. Give the young people 5 minutes to walk around the scout hall/hut
3. Now give them 1 minute to write down ideas on how they could improve the scout hall/hut.
4. Give the young people some more time if they would like.
5. Ask them also to think about how they could fundraise for this or where they could get money to support the improvements.
6. Alternative: Can get the young people to draw improvements on the page as well.

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED

- A4 Paper
- Colouring pens
- Access to the internet

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK LISTEN ACT 

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. To prepare for the activity, write a variety of activities on a sheet of labels or sticky notes and leave some blank for the young people to fill in. (Or you could print out images of the sections activity badges)
2. Set up your cool wall by pinning up 4 large headings- seriously cool, cool, uncool and seriously uncool. (You can choose different headings if you want)
3. Working in groups, give each a set of the prelabelled notes or badges. Explain the peer leader should lead the discussion on each activity trying to let each young person express their opinion. YIs and Leaders should be on hand to assist if needed.
4. When the group has come to an agreement on the activity or badge they should attach it to the relevant part of the cool wall
5. At the end, show the wall to the whole section and spot any obvious trends

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Blu-tack
- Flipchart paper
- Images of badges/ Sticky notes/Labels

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



This activity is great for a group that likes to go off topic

1. Identify an area of wall or flipchart paper to be your 'car park'
2. If the discussion gets stuck or bogged down or the Young People have questions, get them to write it on a post it note and place it in the car park
3. Explain that you have parked the item so there will be no more discussion on it now but that you'll come back to it
4. At the end of the session go through the post-it notes and answer any questions. Save any other topics for discussion at the next meeting

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Post it notes
- Pens or pencils
- Flipchart paper

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Bring a bag of random items to your Unit meeting. Tip the contents of the bag into the middle of the floor.
2. One person from each team must pick up an item and take it back to their team
3. The team has to generate six programme ideas from the item returning it to the pile in the middle and picking another one
4. Encourage them to think laterally e.g. the toothbrush might link to
 - Teeth: visit a dentist
 - Brush: art- visit an art gallery
 - Plastic: plastic pollution, recycling, social actionSome ideas may not be practical, some may not, but this is not important as we are trying to encourage free thinking

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- 15-20 random items e.g. toothbrush, candle, battery, spoon, rope
- Pens or pencils
- Flipchart paper

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Split into small groups and explain the idea is to build the longest paper chain that they can in a set amount of time. Each chain link must have a different activity or idea they would like to plan or take part in at scouts
2. At the end of the time stop each group and ask them to pick their top 3 to 5 ideas and feedback to the group. Take these ideas and review the suggestions.
3. Depending on how much time you have you may want to prepare the paper links beforehand or let the scouts do it themselves
4. Use these chains as decorations around the hall to remind everyone what activities the scouts would like to do

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Glue
- Coloured paper strips
- Pens

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Place the agree/disagree cards at different ends of the room
2. Ask the young people to stand in the centre of the room
3. Read out the first statement and ask the young people to move to either disagree or agree. Remind the group that there is no right or wrong answer to each question
4. Ask one person to explain why they have chosen to stand where they have. Ask if anyone from the opposing opinion would like to respond. Remember to ensure it continues to be a discussion and does not become confrontational

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Agree Card
- Disagree Card
- Blue-tac
- Prepared statements or questions

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Set up a diary room chair, in a quiet place away from the main hall
2. Set up a video camera/phone on a tripod in front of the chair and assign a leader to operate this
3. Young people can then talk to the camera and give views on any subject you like from general views on scouts to opinions about specific activities to views on structures and badges or recent news items
4. You can direct the whole thing by providing questions or you can let them freestyle but provide clear objectives at the start These videos can be great keepsakes for young people to remember their time in scouts and you could also share to social media (with parental permission)

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Good quality phone or camera
- Someone to operate the video camera and edit the clips afterwards

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Before you give out materials, have a short discussion with your young people. To jog their memories, ask them what they have enjoyed doing so far
2. Then, explain that they are going to be decorating the biscuits with pictures of their favourite activities so far. For example, if they enjoyed going on a nature walk they could decorate the biscuit with a picture of their muddy boots
3. Ask everyone to wash their hands then distribute the biscuits and icing
4. Once they have completed the designs, discuss the chosen activities
5. Take photographs then they can eat the biscuits!

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Plain biscuits (rich tea or digestives work well but check dietary requirements) icing
- Cake decorations/ figurines

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Ask your scouts to write down or draw a picture of an activity they would really like to do that they've never done (could also be things they haven't enjoyed, their favourite things this year etc.)
2. Next ask them to scrunch up their idea into the smallest paper snowball they can
3. Let the snowball fight commence!
4. After a few minutes of snowball throwing, stop the group in their tracks. Ask them to pick up the snowball closest to them. Take it in turns reading out the ideas on the paper
5. Note down their ideas and use this in your future programme planning

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Pens
- Paper

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Lay out the large pieces of paper on the floor. Make sure they are big enough to draw around one of your members.
2. Draw around one of your members
3. Ask you members to think about what they think makes the best leader or peer leader. What qualities might a person need in order to lead a group fairly and kindly? What qualities might they need in order to make decisions on behalf of the group?
4. Write their ideas inside the outline of the person- they may also want to use pictures . Remind them there are no right or wrong answers
5. Explore their answers and see if they are realistic and achievable

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED

- Marker Pens
- Large sheets of paper
- Post-it notes



YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Decide on the project you are planning beforehand (Maybe use one of the idea generating activities!)
2. Display the template for everyone to see
3. Then get participants to write or draw the ideas on post it notes and stick them on the relevant part of the flipchart
 - On the balloon: issues and factors that will be needed for the proposal to fly
 - In the basket: write the names of people or organisations who can help and support your aims
 - Ropes: what will hold it back before the project has started?
 - Clouds: what could push the balloon off course?

WHO FOR?

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Pens
- Flipchart Paper
- Post it notes
- Hot air balloon outline

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. This activity gives everyone a chance to share their views and prevents confident speakers from overpowering other speakers. Give each scout three cotton buds or other small objects
2. Set a topic for debate such as: What is unacceptable behaviour, what would you like unit funds to be spent on etc.
3. Every time someone speaks they have to hand over a cotton bud to a leader or put it in a box in the centre of the room
4. If someone speaks for a long time they could lose 3 or 4 cotton buds
5. As the discussion is going on, a leader should write points up to track what is being said

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Cotton buds or match sticks or similar

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. The aim of this activity is to allow the young people to think about the finer details of an activity they want to do and pitch it in a competition style event
2. Give them some guidance in the form of a brief. For example: How can we make the district more youth shaped?, What new adventurous activities should we try? Or which international camps should we attend
3. Then break it down into the components you want them to consider such as pricing, transport, location etc.
4. Split them into small teams to brainstorm ideas and choose one to pitch . After the allotted time each team should pitch their idea to a panel of judges. This could be the leaders, other adults in scouting, or your district youth lead for example!
5. The ultimate prize for the winning team would be to see their idea in action!

WHO FOR?

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Task brief
- Pens
- Panel of judges
- Paper

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Ask each group to arrange their topic ideas in a diamond formation with the priority at the top, two on the second row, three in the third row, two in the fourth and the lowest at the bottom
2. They need to get a consensus as a group and can move the ideas around until they reach an order with which they all agree
3. For a consensus to work the group must understand that everyone must not have an objection. So the majority may agree but if one person disagrees then this is not a consensus. The people disagreeing must remember that the aim is to co-operate not to argue.

WHO FOR?

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- List of priorities
- Pens/ pencils
- Post it notes
- Formation template

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Before you head out for some orienteering/geocaching with your group, you'll need to hide some objects along the route you intend to take. At each checkpoint hide a 'themed' box of programme ideas (e.g. an international themed box, a camp themed box) for each patrol to find, clearly labelled with their patrol name. Inside each box, wrote down 5 different ideas on 5 pieces of paper
2. When they find a box, each group should spend some time working together to choose which of the 5 ideas they would most like to do
3. Once they have collected all their activities, regroup at HQ and narrow the list down further

WHO FOR?

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Boxes
- Paper
- Pens
- A Map
- Orienteering coordinates or GPS points
- Compass/ GPS system

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Gather your pens, paper and magazine clippings. Lay them all out ahead of time.
2. Gather your scouts and split them into groups. Their task is to design an advert that aims to attract new members to scouting. Ask them to imagine that the advert will be used in bus shelters across the country. What would they like the public to know about scouting? Which activities do they most want to promote?
3. Once they have finished their advert, each group can pitch their idea to the rest of the Unit to open up a discussion about the activities and ideas they have chosen to focus on

WHO FOR?

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- pens paper
- Magazine and newspaper clippings

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Arrange to meet up with other members
2. At the venue, set up a row of tables and chairs (think speed dating setup)
3. Then, ask members to sit in 2 rows facing each other. They will each have 5 minutes to discuss with the person sitting opposite them.
4. In that time, ask them to each list 3 elements of the programme that went well; this year, 3 that didn't go so well, and 3 things they would like to improve in the future
5. Once they have done this with one partner, one row of members will move up to the next seat, so that everyone is sitting in front of a new person
6. Repeat the process until everyone has spoken to each other and shared their ideas. Regroup and discuss key points

WHO FOR?

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED



- Chairs
- Tables

YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Gather in a circle with other network members
2. Ask one player to go first by naming a word which is related to any of the potential programme themes they would like to try
3. Then, ask the next person in the circle to say the first word that comes into their head. Continue around the circle for a few rounds, pausing to reflect on the words that come up.
4. See if you can come up with a project or event idea based on these. Are there any recurring words or themes?

WHO FOR?

Network

YOU'LL NEED

- Imagination



YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK

HOW TO RUN IT



1. Split the hut into 4 sections
2. A ball is thrown into the middle and each team must try to keep the ball out of their section
3. A leader who is not looking blows a whistle at random intervals and the team left with the ball get a point and must give an opinion/idea about what they would like to do in a future meeting
4. The winner is the team with the least points at the end of the game

WHO FOR?

Squirrels

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts

Explorers

Network

YOU'LL NEED

- A soft ball
- Ropes or similar to partition the room



YOUTH SHAPED TIP

Write down the ideas you hear. Before the next meeting, tell the group what you are going to do with them.

Activity content adapted from the supplied Youth Shaped Activity Ideas pack.

ASK

LISTEN

ACT

SHARE BACK