



YOUTH SHAPED SCOUTING MADE EASY

A GUIDE TO MAKE YOUR DISTRICT/GROUP/SECTION MORE YOUTH SHAPED

By Sam Buswell and Jack Barber
Leicestershire's Youth Commissioners



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INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH SHAPED SCOUTING

What is Youth Shaped Scouting?

Youth Shaped Scouting is the way as a movement we give the youth members a voice by **working in partnership with adults** on making decisions that will affect their Scouting future. It includes the setup of forums and feedback sessions where **young people are encouraged to give us their opinions**. With this method of feedback and ideas for the future we evolve the movement into something that current and future generations will enjoy. Not only will it make Scouting more **enjoyable**, but it will make it more **inclusive** too.

This said, it doesn't mean that we will be losing our traditions or skills, so no need to worry there. It's simply the best way to keep Scouting thriving, as it currently is, for years to come and remaining relevant in the current climate and future ones. An easy way to ensure your group are Youth Shaped is to follow **The Three F's: Forums, Feedback and Fun**.

The Three F's

Forums – Make sure your programme planning is led by your young members' interests; find out what they want to do. You'll read lots of amazing ways to do that in this booklet.

Feedback – Once you've ran an activity, find out what everyone thought. What was good/bad/what would they improve? You might do this through a group conversation, a show of hands, writing comments down or more. See our feedback tips on page 20.

Fun – Scouting should always be enjoyable and relevant to the young people in your Section or Group. The more fun they have, the more they'll want to come to meetings and camps, and the more fun leaders have too. Youth Shaped Scouting creates a positive environment for everyone.

Your Youth Team and What We Do

Your Youth Team are a group of Scouters, consisting of your two County Youth Commissioners and the District Youth Commissioners within our County, as well as their relevant support teams, that ensure that all Scouting Members between the ages of 6 – 25 are represented in decisions and make sure Youth Shaped scouting takes place. Youth Commissioners are within the latter of this age bracket (18 – 25), supported by Explorers, to appropriately make sure we truly represent the Youth Membership within our area.

We are also here to help assist you, the Leaders, in all things YouShape, whether that be in helping you organise an event like a forum or to give advice on how to improve your level of YouShaping. Don't be afraid to contact us, or one of the team that is perhaps more local to you. All contact details for people in relevant roles will be on the last page of this booklet.

#YouShape

YOUTH FORUMS

Put Simply: A Forum is a meeting of all members of the Section, either collectively or in smaller teams, and provides an opportunity for everyone to give their views on the programme and running of the Section.

The Following Topics Could Be Discussed:

- Camps
- Activities
- Competitions
- Feedback on previous events
- Code of Conduct for the Section



All young people's views are valuable, and everyone has the right to contribute their thoughts and ideas. Young People who are less confident or have difficulties with communicating or working with others may need extra support or flexibility to express their opinions and views. **It is important to enable all young people to play an active role**, to achieve meaningful youth involvement in the Section.

Some young people may have difficulties with things like taking turns, or find it difficult to share their ideas verbally or in a group setting, some will need more time than others, to process and form their ideas. **Do not underestimate the ability of all young people to give their views.** There are lots of different ways that feelings and ideas can be communicated.

Running a Forum

To help you organise a successful Forum, you can use the following tried and tested steps as a guide. This includes practical ideas and tips which could be used, to support all young people to express their opinions/views. Having several methods for young people to contribute will be beneficial and **more engaging and fun**, for all young people.

Forums should be held as often as you feel necessary. However, make sure there is enough time in between for the young people to see that actions are being taken to include their suggestions and feedback. **Once a term is highly advisable.**

Using smaller groups may enable the quieter Scouts to express their views more easily. If your Section has Young Leaders, they could be used to facilitate discussions in these small groups. If you are going to include all members of the Section at once, an older member could be elected as a chair to run the forum.

Forums shouldn't be the same each time, there are lots of different ways to run them. It doesn't need to be at the meeting place, why not do it around the campfire? Young members don't have to just sit and write things down, **why not try some of the alternative activities on pages 6-18?**

Encouraging Turn-Taking

The young people could be asked to sit in a circle and pass an object around. The young person holding the object gets the opportunity to give their opinion, and the chairperson takes notes.

Encouraging Involvement

Different activity options could be pinned to the wall in each corner of the room, and then the young people to be asked to stand in the corner of their preferred activity. These could be written on post-it notes, and large pieces of paper pinned to the wall titled 'cool' and 'uncool'. The Section can then vote on whether the activities are 'cool' or 'uncool' and stick the post-it on the relevant piece of paper.

You could also pin up large pieces of paper to create a graffiti wall, where any suggestions could be written. The young people could each be given a pen, and allowed 10 minutes to make their suggestions. Leaders then look over the paper and pick out popular suggestions to include in the programme.

Please keep in mind some young people may have difficulty remembering or visualising activities that they've done in the past. Showing photos would be an excellent memory aid and promote discussion.

Communication

Remember to think about how you communicate the question or topic, to **ensure the understanding of all young people**. For young people with autism, questions or topics that are specific will probably be most accessible. For more information about autism visit scouts.org.uk/autism.

For a young person who has difficulty expressing themselves, make sure you give them enough time and take time to check that you've understood their views/ideas correctly.

For young people with limited communication skills, it may be useful to speak to the parent/carer about best way for the young person to form and provide their views. The **Scouting Speaks to All** resource covers a range of speech, language and communication needs, and tips for supporting young people with these needs. members.scouts.org.uk/documents/scouting_speaks_to_all_a_leader_s_guide_to_speech_and_communication_needs.pdf

Planning Ahead

A slip of paper could be sent home, the week before the Youth Forum, with a question or several questions for the young people to have **plenty of time** to think about and record their ideas. They could use this as a reminder or the slip could be handed in for leaders to collate. This would also be a good means of **parent/carers giving support** to young people to form their ideas, if needed.

A young person may be more able to give their ideas individually, to their Section Leader, their Patrol Leader, another volunteer, a Young Leader, or someone who knows them well. The young person could then be supported/prompted to give their views or could nominate someone to speak for them. An 'ideas box' or 'thoughts box' could be used in the section, for young people to submit their ideas in writing and anonymously if they wish.

If a young person needs extra time to process a question, ask them if they would like others to answer first, or **provide the list of questions beforehand**. Leaders should **encourage participation**, and it is important the young people can see that **actions are being taken** because of these discussions. If certain activities cannot be run, then the **reasons must be explained** to the Scouts and a new activity chosen to avoid disappointment. Your young members will only be engaged in forums if they can see Leaders acting on their input. Don't be put off by off the wall ideas, talk with your Section about how they can be made realistic. **Not every idea can be used, but most can in some form, YouShape is all about making that happen.**

PATROL LEADERS' FORUMS (and Equivalent)

Patrol Leaders will be used as examples for this part, these are very similar to Section Forums, but involve Patrol Leaders; sometimes Assistant Patrol Leaders, and the Adult Leadership team. If your Section has Young Leaders, they should also be involved.

Examples of how Patrol Leader's Forums Can Be Used:

- To reinforce the leadership role of Patrol Leaders within the Troop.
- To reinforce discussions, which have taken place during Troop Forums, and to report back to their patrols on any decisions made.
- Programme planning.
- Planning camps, including the venue and the activities.

Suggestions for Running a Patrol Leader's Forum:

(can be run alongside Troop Forums):

- The structure should be flexible and informal discussions are often more suitable as long, formal meetings may discourage participation.
- One Patrol Leader could act as the chair, while another takes notes on suggestions and what is agreed at the meeting. This could be done on a rotational basis.
- The Patrol Leaders could be asked to vote from a list of options, for example suitable camp venues. This could be done using a show of hands, or standing at different sides of the room corresponding to the options.
- The Patrol leaders could be asked to design a feedback form to fill in with their Patrols, covering past and future camps and activities.

NOTES

For Beavers and Cubs:

Make it fun - An example: use an active game to encourage the Beaver/Cub Scouts to express their opinions. For example, pin a happy face on one wall and a sad face on the other, then stand the Beavers/Cubs in the middle of the room. Shout out an activity, and ask the Beavers/Cubs to run to the happy face if they would like to do the activity or the sad face if they would not. **There are more great examples between pages 6 and 18.**



For Explorers and Network:

Compulsory - All Explorer units **must** have this in place. This is usually covered as a programme planning evening. Network is run by its members.

District held - The Explorers should run the above Forums but should also do it at a **District level** as they are not technically part of a group. These meetings involve all the Explorer Scouts from all the Units in a District, and are generally held once a year. They are usually informal social gatherings, which are used as an opportunity to get feedback on the programme of the past year, and to discuss upcoming events. The same applies for Network.

More - When at a forum the **Explorers should always outnumber the Leaders**. This **must be chaired by an Explorer**. This can be formal or informal setting and style.



YOUSHAPE WALL

Want to find out how Youth Shaped your Section or Group is? **Look at the wall below**, this shows you how far up the scale of YouShape you are and how you can improve your level to achieve a truly youth led Group or Section.



YOUSHAPE ACTIVITIES

There are plenty of ways for you to make your group more Youth Shaped, the best way is to run forums as described in previous pages. These next few pages will describe smaller scale and alternate ways to get ideas and/or feedback from your sections, with full details on what you need and who its suitable for.

QUARTER BALL

Suitable Sections

Beavers through to Scouts.

Aim

To encourage young people to provide ideas for future events and meetings in a fun and informal setting.

Time Required

Approximately 20 minutes.

Equipment/Resources

- Sponge ball/s
- Cones or similar



Instructions

Split the hut into four sections. A ball is thrown into the middle and each team must try to keep the ball out of their own quarter. A Leader who has their back turned from the game blows a whistle at random and the team that has the ball in their quarter gets a point and must give an idea of what they'd like to do. The winners are the team that acquire the least points. You can see 109th Leicester Beavers trying out this game in the YouShape video circulated with this booklet.

Feeling Adventurous?

Try setting a different question at the start of each game, such as preferred District events or the next venue for a camp. You could also use more than one ball for larger Sections.

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Suitable Sections

Beavers and Cubs.

Aim

To understand the preferences that young people have for programme ideas.

Time Required

Approximately 20 minutes.

Equipment/Resources

- Various cardboard boxes
- Small balls
- Marker pens



Instructions

Place the cardboard boxes at one end of the room with the programme ideas written on so they are easily visible. A separate box with several small balls is placed in the centre of the room. The young people are then split into teams and will race to get a ball from the box, they then run to the end of the room and place the ball into the box which has their preferred programme idea on.

Want to Make It More Competitive?

Try giving each team a set number of balls. The winners, the ones that get all their balls placed first, choose a different question for the next round.



IDEA FACTORY

Suitable Sections

Beavers through to Scouts.

Aim

Discover what activities the young people would like to take part in.

Time Required

Approximately 20 minutes.

Equipment/Resources

- Blu-tac or similar
- Paper
- Pens

Instructions

Stick the sheets of paper on the walls around the hut, leaving one side bare. A Leader then asks a question, such as 'Find your favourite activity?' The young people will then run to the paper that states their answer. Keep asking questions until you have a good idea of what your young people's preferences are. You can mix this up by adding other questions that aren't necessarily relevant to the activity like asking 'Which activity uses a bow and arrows?'

Be Even More Youth Shaped

Set a different question for the game, for example which District events they prefer or a venue for their next camp. You could ask the Section Members to write down the options.



TALENT SHOW

Suitable Sections

Beavers through to Explorers.

Aim

Give young people the opportunity to showcase their skills.

Time Required

Whole meeting plus 15 minutes in a previous meeting.

Equipment/Resources

The young people should provide their own equipment and Leaders are required to be judges.

Instructions

Ask the young people to think of a talent they have and can showcase to the rest of their Section. The next week the young people should arrive with any equipment they need to showcase their talent and a plan of what they will do. It would be up to them if they want to do this in groups or individually. They have chosen what they wanted to do and planned their own activity.

Want to Take It a Step Further?

Why not ask their families to come and support them and watch the show?



SCOUTING SHOWCASE

Suitable Section

Beavers through to Network.

Aim

Give young people an opportunity to show case their take on scouting.

Time Required

Varies from one meeting to a month.

Equipment/Resources

- Video Camera
- Video equipment
- Projector



Instructions

In either groups or as your whole section, encourage your young people to create a video showing their favourite parts of scouting, as well a 'what they do week to week'. Ideas could include activities, events and interviews. This could also be done as a promotional piece for your group. Leaders may need to give more support to younger Sections, but **must** still let them decide what they want to do in the video.

Want to Take It One Step Further?

Include all the sections from your group and present the video at an event like an AGM or a Group camp.

WEAR THE NECKER

Suitable Section

Cubs through to Explorers.

Aim

Understand what is like to be a young person in your section.

Time Required

Whole evening.

Equipment/Resources

Dependant on activity the young people chose to run.

Instructions

Ask some of the young people at your section to plan an evening programme. The young people will then lead this evening at a later meeting, with the adults and young people changing places. They may need some support or advice in the planning and running as well as ensuring good behaviour and safety, however adults **must never** completely take over.

Mix It Up!

Get the young people to plan the evening without telling the leaders what is planned until the start of the evening.



DRAGONS' DEN

Suitable Section

Cubs through to Explorers.

Aim

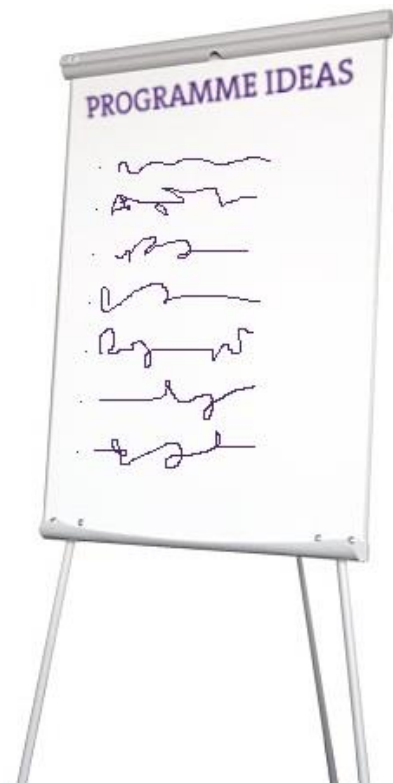
Give the young people of your section to pitch their ideas.

Time Required

Whole evening.

Equipment/Resources

- Paper
- Pens
- Flip chart/ Presentation board
- The Dragons



Instructions

Split your section into small groups and task them to come up with ideas to The Dragons. Set a time limit for the preparations and presentations – **don't be too strict on this**. When preparation time is up, ask the young people to present their ideas. Take forward the ideas that would work for your group. If ideas that aren't feasible come up then **do not** dismiss them, make sure you explain why it can't be taken forward. Perhaps ask them to rework their idea to make it work if you have time.

Want to Get Ahead of The Game?

Make some of your young people The Dragons to make it truly Youth Shaped!

FUTURE LEADERS

Suitable Section

Scouts through to Network.

Aim

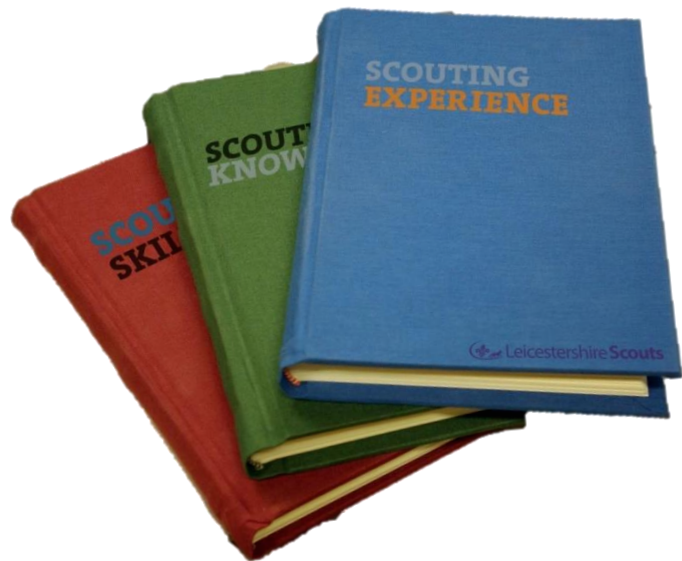
Get the young people to organise a cross-section evening/activity and for younger sections to see what happens in older sections, as well as older ones passing on their skills and experience to the younger sections.

Time Required

Whole evening.

Equipment/Resources

Dependant on the activity.



Instructions

Task the older Sections of your group to run an activity for the younger sections. This could be Explorers running an evening for Scouts, or Scouts running one for Cubs / Beavers. Leaders should provide support, ensuring good behaviour and safety but **must not** take over.

Not Able to Find a Section to Run an Evening for You?

Get the ball rolling by asking if you can organise one for another Section to show others how it's done.



COOKING COMPETITION

Suitable Section

Cubs through to Explorers.

Aim

To learn and use cooking and team skills by taking part in a cooking competition.

Time Required

Whole meeting.

Equipment/Resources

- Cooking equipment
- Food
- Budget



Instructions

This could be done in several ways. One way is to do a tin can challenge, this is where you task the young people to buy as many tin cans of food as they can for a set budget. Another way this could be done is back woods cooking without using any pots or pans and see who can create the best meal. Another way is to do a Ready Steady Cook style night where you buy a bag of random food for each Patrol/Unit, ideally ingredients should be able to make a few different dishes, you can differ the difficulty.

Want to Use Those Skills?

See if your District has any cooking competitions. If not, why not join with another group and have a competition between the two.

MY UNIFORM

Suitable Section

Scouts through to Network.

Aim

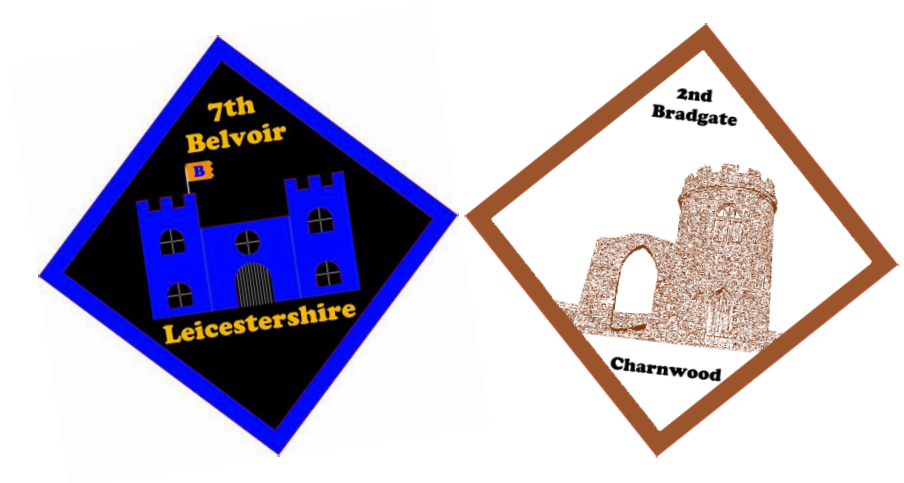
Get the young people to be proud of their uniform and have input on what their uniform looks like.

Time Required

A whole evening.

Equipment/Resources

- Paper
- Pens



Instructions

Choose a piece of the groups uniform such as the Necker or a group badge and ask the young people to redesign it, this can be completed on paper or digitally, as well as being run as a competition. Once a design is chosen, make sure it is incorporated into the Group or Section uniform. This one is perfect for new Explorer Units that are just starting up.

Feeling Adventurous?

Use the skills from this to help you YouShape even more by suggesting the group design a badge for an event that they have decided they wanted to do in one of the other activities.

I LIKE...

Suitable Section

Beavers through to Network.

Aim

Find out which Group/District events are popular with the young people.

Time Required

10 Minutes

Equipment/Resources

- Pens
- Ready written survey (see example beside)

Instructions

Create a short survey for the young people to rate the various activities that you do as a Group or District. This can be as a rating from 1 to 10 and then an option to add a reason why. Also ensure there is a section for them to offer potential new events to the calendar. You can then use these to decide what events should be added/removed in the future. This could be done individually or in groups.

Done This Before?

Try using this method to answer a different question such as adventurous activities while on camp.

SCOUT ACTIVITY SURVEY

Tick the activities below that you would like to do:

☐ Skiing Trip	☐ Social Camp
☐ Ice Skating Trip	☐ Basics Camp
☐ Museum Trip	☐ Working Camp
☐ Pottery Making Trip	☐ Summer Camp
☐ Snowdome Trip	☐ Survival Camp
☐ Maze Trip	☐ "I'm A Scout Get Me Out of Here" Night
☐ Outdoor Pursuits Trip	☐ Map Night
☐ Farm Trip	☐ Movie Night
☐ Climbing Trip	☐ Local Survey Night
☐ Zoo Trip	☐ Nerf Wars
☐ Computer Programming Trip	☐ Arts and Crafts
☐ Factory/Workplace Trip	☐ Quiz Night
☐ Hiking	☐ Cooking Night
☐ Shooting	☐ Axe and Saw Night
☐ Archery	☐ Games Night
☐ BBQ	☐ Other (write below)
☐ Ice Warrior	

What activities have you enjoyed the most since you joined Scouting? Why?

What activities have you not enjoyed? Why?

DAY TRIP

Suitable Sections

Beavers through to Network.

Aim

Give young people the opportunity to experience planning and delivering a day event.

Time Required

A whole day or an evening.

Equipment/Resources

Dependant on activity.

Instructions



Using laptops or maps ask your Section where they would like to go. Depending on age, give them a budget for travel and the event if required. Get your Section to plan how they will get there, what they will do as well as food, and timings for the day. This can change depending on age, for example Beavers can plan where they would like to go, and use a map to understand where they could go.

Done This Before?

Why don't you get your Section to plan a hike or walk for a younger section? Or even plan a weekend away.

GRAFFITI WALL

Suitable Sections

Beavers through to Network.

Aim

To see what the young people in your section want to do and to see what is important to them.

Time Required

Around 20 minutes.

Equipment/Resources

- Post-it notes
- Pens
- Flip-chart paper
- Blu-tac or similar



Instructions

Place up pieces of flip-chart paper around the room on the walls. Each area must have a main heading and those should have sub-headings. An example would be having the main heading as "Events" and having a sub-heading of "Camps" or "Day Trips". This can also be used for deciding other things such as what games the young people would like to play on a games night.

Trying to Get Young Members Involved in Your Exec?

If you are struggling to get young members involved in your Execs, then this would be a good way to get the engagement of a younger audience for a formal meeting by making it more informal and perhaps easier to understand.

COLLECTING FEEDBACK

Top Tips:

- A big part of Youth Shaped Scouting is about **finding out what your young members thought** of an activity or event; what they enjoyed, what could have been better and what they would like to do again.
- There are several ways that you can do this: With younger Sections, you could ask them to give 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' at the end of an activity or meeting. Alternatively, try giving out coloured card and ask your young members to rate the activity as 'red, orange or green'.
- With older sections, feedback could be given as part of formal or informal conversations, in small or large groups. This might be a chat around the campfire, or time specifically set aside for everyone to sit down and offer their thoughts.
- Feedback should also be a key part of **Patrol Forums (and equivalent)** in every Section.
- **Feedback is linked closely with idea gathering**, and can be part of all the YouShape activities in this booklet. When thinking of what they would like to do in the future, your young members should always think about their past experiences in Scouting to assist their ideas and planning.
- The most important thing is that our **young people have the chance to give their thoughts** on what they have enjoyed, in whatever format, and that their feedback is listened to and acted upon – this is a key element of Youth Shaped Scouting.
- **Don't be afraid to hear bad feedback** – some activities just don't work as planned, different groups like different things and it may be that your young members just didn't like something as much as they thought they would. Part of a leader's role is to work with your Section to determine the best options and activities that maximise everyone's enjoyment, including leaders.
- Equally feedback should always be constructive. **Encourage your young people to have realistic expectations** and always avoid making criticisms personal.
- Of course, not everyone will always agree, and no one will like everything they do in Scouting – that's why **it's important to have a diverse and varied programme** that offers a balance of what everyone enjoys and makes sure everyone in Scouting gets as much out of it as possible.

OTHER RESOURCES

YouShape Homepage

The page that has all the information The Scout Association puts out about YouShape.

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/youshape>

CEO's Blog on YouShape

A blog talking about putting young people in charge and the positives you receive.

<https://scouts.org.uk/news/2015/03/ceos-blog-what-happens-when-you-put-young-people-in-charge/>

#YouShape 2018 Badge Badges

are available to order from the Leicestershire Scouts Equipment Department.

Tel: 0116 2324530

Email: equip@leicestershirescouts.org.uk

CONTACT INFORMATION

We would really love to be able to go around to every Group and Section to see what you get up to, but unfortunately that won't be feasible. However, we would love photos, videos, and information on what you've done, as well as how many young people have been involved. Therefore, there are several ways to contact us and show us what you have done, either email, Twitter or Facebook. Also, if you have any comments on this guide or any other activities we can put in to share to the rest of the County we would be very grateful.

Contact Details

Youth Commissioner Emails:

Sam Buswell – County: Sam.Buswell@LeicestershireScouts.org.uk

Jack Barber – County: Jack.Barber@LeicestershireScouts.org.uk

Paul Allen – Hinckley: pc.allen@ntlworld.com

Hannah Dove – Harborough: Youth@HarboroughScouts.org.uk

Joe Putt – Loughborough: joeputt.scouts@gmail.com

Sam Reeder – South West: samreeder@live.co.uk

Sam Harrison – South East: sam.harrison@southeastscouts.org

Spencer Freeman – Charnwood: spencerfreeman1@hotmail.co.uk

Alice Bombroff – Ashby Coalville: 123sheepie@gmail.com

Lianne Mason – North East: lianne.mason@43rd.org.uk

Ian Cliffe – Melton Mowbray: ian.cliffe@ntlworld.com

Nicky Lauder – South: nickylauder2014@yahoo.co.uk

Twitter:

@LeicCYC – use #YouShape to share what you have done.

Facebook Page:

Jack and Sam – Leicestershire Youth Commissioners – use #YouShape to share what you have done. You can find your Local Youth Commissioners on this page too as we will be sharing their successes.