

# Scouting at Home



# Welcome

... to the second edition of the Scouting at Home challenge.

From quizzes to bingo; treasure hunts to virtual escape rooms; it has been brilliant to see the range of online Scouting activities happening all over our County. Giving young people the chance to come together is vital - following one online activity a parent said to the leader, 'It's the first time my child has laughed in weeks'.

It's a great time for us to engage new young people, whilst we don't have the limitations of ratios and physical meeting spaces. So, we'd encourage you to include young people on your waiting lists in your online programmes. Scouting can make a huge difference, especially now, so let's reach out.

If you've not joined an online virtual Scouting session yet, there are great examples in every District and it might be worth asking to join one of those to see how it works. Your Assistant District Commissioner for your section will be able to help you. There's also lots of great information on the national website:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/>

## Edition 2 – Shaped by Young People

At the end of last year we appointed our first ever County Young Leaders. These are Explorer Scouts, working in pairs with each of the Assistant County Commissioners for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to help ensure our programme support and events are shaped by young people.



Some of this team are turning 18 shortly and we are now advertising for their successors.

[Download an information pack](#) and apply before the closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> June.

This edition of the Scouting at Home challenge has been developed and written by our County Young Leaders and County Explorer Scout Forum. We think they've done a fabulous job, but we'd like to hear how these activities go with your sections, please send your pictures and feedback via social media or email to:

[ideas@westlancsscouts.org.uk](mailto:ideas@westlancsscouts.org.uk)

## Commissioner's Challenge Badge

This is a sneak preview of the Scouting at Home badge. This is a participation badge and will be able to be worn on uniform by all young people taking part in the challenges for 12 months from when face to face scouting resumes. We are finalising details with the supplier now and hope to have these on sale soon, so that you can recognise your young people's efforts.

Remember that there will be a new edition of the challenge every 6 weeks while we are Scouting at Home. Look out for Edition 3 in mid-July.



# Events

We're really missing face to face Scouting and all the events we've had to postpone. We've got our fingers crossed that we can resume face to face Scouting in the Autumn, but of course it will depend on what the Government and Scout HQ say closer to the time. In the hope that its good news we've put together a new events plan, so we've something to look forward to. Save the dates for now, hopefully more details soon.

| From   | To     | Section(s)                 | Event                         |
|--------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21-Aug | 23-Aug | Network                    | Re-Connected                  |
| 18-Sep | 20-Sep | Cubs                       | County Cub Camp               |
| 26-Sep | 27-Sep | Explorers                  | Monopoly Run / Social Weekend |
| 02-Oct | 04-Oct | Scouts                     | County Rally                  |
| 17-Oct |        | Beavers                    | Adventure Funday              |
| 23-Oct | 25-Oct | Explorers                  | Environment Weekend           |
| 07-Nov |        | Scouts, Explorers, Network | Crew Challenge                |
| 27-Nov | 29-Nov | Cubs                       | Santa Sleepover               |
| 05-Dec |        | Beavers, Cubs              | Winter Wonderland             |
| 05-Dec | 06-Dec | Scouts, Explorers          | Winter Challenge Camp         |

## Share examples of your groups joining in!

[facebook.com/westlancsbeaverscouts/](https://facebook.com/westlancsbeaverscouts/)

[facebook.com/groups/WestLancsCubScouts/](https://facebook.com/groups/WestLancsCubScouts/)

[facebook.com/WestLancsScouts/](https://facebook.com/WestLancsScouts/)

[facebook.com/WestLancsExplorerScouts/](https://facebook.com/WestLancsExplorerScouts/)

[facebook.com/groups/WestLancsScoutNetwork/](https://facebook.com/groups/WestLancsScoutNetwork/)

# BEAVERS

- S** Scavenger Hunt. Using the colour(s) of your neckie, see how many items you can find that match. Share your findings with your Colony.
- C** Coat of Arms - design a family coat of arms and carve it out of soap, potato etc. or make it out of Lego.
- O** Outside – In. Bring the outdoors inside by making your dream mini-garden or campsite.
- U** Underground. Can you make a caving system out of furniture / boxes / Lego for you / your family / your teddies to crawl through?!
- T** Trees are brilliant. Can you draw one for your family to include your grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins etc.?
- I** International – we may be staying home but we can still explore the world around us. Use Google Earth (or similar) to visit somewhere you have never been. You could explore the Egyptian pyramids, sites of Greek mythology, Everest and the mountains of the Himalayas, go on safari in Africa, explore the Amazon river and rainforest.
- N** Natural Art – collect some natural materials whilst out for your daily exercise and get creative to make something arty!
- G** Games - we all love a board game but are you bored of all of yours yet? Why not make your own and teach your family how to play it?
- A** Animals – lots of animals are venturing out more and making the most of us humans staying home. Write a list of all the animals / birds you see on a walk in your local area, take pictures of them if you can & share them with your Colony.
- T** Tongue twisters - there are some classic ones for you to try or perhaps you can make up your own.  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/tongue-twisters>
- H** Hedgehogs - do you have one in your garden / yard? Make and use a simple tracking tunnel to find out  
<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/footprint-tunnels/> Simple instructions are at the end of this document.
- O** Online meeting – hold a virtual Colony meeting and see what your fellow Beaver Scouts have been up to.
- M** Model – hold a fashion show with your family, what's the wackiest outfit you can come up with? Take some photos and share them with your Colony!
- E** Emergency Aid – learn how to help someone who is unconscious <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/unresponsive-casualty/how-to-do-the-recovery-position/>

- S** Scavenger hunt – find a matchbox or small box and see how many objects you fit in at the same time.
- C** Campfire, draw or make a campfire and hold your own campfire! Make a note of the songs you'd like to sing around it, you can even find new ones and suggest them to Akela when you go back to Cubs!
- O** Outing, if you go on a daily walk, take pictures or draw what you see along the way, then look up some facts for each of the things you saw e.g. if you see a bird, find out which bird it is and draw a picture.
- U** Ukulele - make a ukulele from elastic bands, cardboard and string and goes towards the environmental conservation badge.
- T** Test yourself on your Cub Scout Law and Promise, you could even make little drawing on cardboard to help you to remember.
- I** Icebreakers - we all know icebreakers, right? Make up your own to help you and the other cubs in your pack get to know each other.
- N** Needlework - if your leaders haven't had a night on teaching you how to sew maybe ask someone at home to help you learn the basics e.g. different types of thread or how to sew.
- G** Gardening - seeing as summer is almost here and lots of things bloom in summer, with the help of the people at home, maybe plant vegetables, trim a plant or help water some flowers.
- A** Akela - learn why we call leaders in Cub Scouts after characters in The Jungle Book and then see if you can list the names used in your pack.
- T** Time - how fast can you run or how high can you jump? Keep a record of yourself doing a sporting activity and then try and improve - practice for your athletics badge.
- H** Home – learn at least 10m different laundry symbols!
- O** Objects - see if you can memorise 10 objects on a table and then if you can add more objects to test your brain power.
- M** Models - make a model of your favourite animal and then keep the model until your next pack meeting then you can show off your model making skills.
- E** Earth- find out 5 interesting facts about our planet and space.

- S** Survival kit – Make a personal kit to help you survive in the wilderness using things you can find round the house.
- C** Cook a full family meal.
- O** Online troop, district or County Forum.
- U** Use sign language to describe a Scouting experience to another person?
- T** Teamwork - think about the roles you've played in a team and try some teamwork challenges.
- I** Investigate history spots in your local area and try to discover more about them.
- N** Navigate yourself around an OS map, learning the basic of 4 and 6 figure grid references and how the shape of the land is represented using contour lines.
- G** Graffiti an old item of clothing and try to reinvent it using paints or ink.
- A** Another language - learn to introduce yourself and say a few common phrases. E.g learn how to say "What time is tea" in German.
- T** Tie a sling - Who can tie a shoulder sling the quickest? Practice your First Aid skills with a family member.
- H** Hot air balloon - Release a homemade hot air balloon into the sky. Follow these instructions: <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Mini-Flyable-Hot-Air-Balloon-with-Candles>
- O** Online quiz for your troop night. Kahoot is quite popular.
- M** Map reading - Use a map to plan a route for your daily exercise.
- E** Explore a park or garden and identify different creatures and their habitats.



# EXPLORERS

- S** Spotify Playlists. Share your best Spotify playlists for...Lockdown, Zoom Parties, Camping, County Camp (Share with us on social media or with each other in your unit).
- C** Collect. Collect an item from around your house for each letter of your name. Share your collection.
- O** Origami – what is the most complex paper folding challenge you can do? Have a look at these [amazing paper feats](#).
- U** Upskilling in mental health first aid or self-help. Spend 5-10 min or 20 min and [learn about suicide prevention](#) or more ways to look after your own mental health with these resources from the [Mental Health Foundation](#).
- T** (Self)-Timer Photo Challenge – the funnier and weirder the better. Hold a unit competition or us on social media.
- I** Indoor festival. Hold an indoor festival with your unit.
- N** New Skill. Learn a new skill such as Sign Language with this [British Sign Language Online Course](#).
- G** Gluten Free Day. Try being gluten free for the day to see what it's like to avoid food due to allergies or food intolerances.
- A** Astronomy. Learn some of the constellations ([lots of apps that can help](#)), spot a shooting star, [the real International Space Station](#) or [Starlink Satellite Constellation](#).
- T** Tea. Learn how to make the best cup of tea using the International Standard [ISO 3103](#)
- H** Home Taskers. Enter a [Home Taskers challenge](#).
- O** Oreos. Find one hundred things to do with an Oreo (and possibly try a few and share the best ones!).
- M** Minecraft. Design a new module for the International Space Station ([Free Challenge from NASA](#))
- E** Exercise a bit. Couch to 5K, [Dance with Diversity](#) (free until end of June), [30 Day Yoga Challenge with Adriene](#). Check out [Stay in, Work out](#) from @SportsEngland.



Twitter: @WestLancsES

Instagram: @westlancsexplorer

Facebook: West Lancs Explorer Scouts

# network

- S** Snap – a photo of a random act of wildness – [wildlifetrusts.org](https://wildlifetrusts.org) - 30 days wild.
- C** Cook – on an open fire.
- O** On your marks – design, build and dive into an obstacle course in your garden.
- U** Unite – get your Network together (virtually).
- T** Threefor3 – Write (or draw) three things you're doing to look after your mental wellbeing during this challenging time and share these ideas with three other people.
- I** I-spy-cycle – see what you can spy while exploring your local area on a bike.
- N** New tricks – teach another Network member a skill or trick.
- G** Great to be grateful – make a card and send a message to someone for being kind or to a great friend.
- A** A knotty challenge – learn a new knot and share it with your Network.
- T** Technology – make a Network video/photo collage to show off your best bits.
- H** Hero – dress up as your favourite hero and share your creativity with your Network
- O** Old photo – find a photo from when you were a beaver, cub or scout and recreate the scene.
- M** Make plans – with your Network make plans to attend Reconnected - 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August at Bibby's Farm (we hope).
- E** Eyes to the skies – wrap up warm then head outside to explore the night sky. What can you spot above you?



# Leaders

- S** Skill – Learn a new scouting skill and teach others how to do it.
- C** Craft – Make a scouting craft gift and send it to a scouting friend.
- O** Outdoors – Cook a meal for you or your family in the great outdoors.
- U** Universe – Identify six constellations in the night sky and how to find north using the stars.
- T** Tents – Erect a tent in an unusual place.
- I** International – Learn about how your section runs in another country.
- N** Nights away – Hold a virtual night away camp using indoor dens or garden camping.
- G** Games – Run an online wide game or scavenger hunt with your section.
- A** Athlete – Take part in three different TV or online fitness classes.
- T** Technology – Use zoom to hold a section meeting or meeting with other leaders.
- H** Help other people – Help a neighbour or local key worker.
- O** Ornithology – Complete a garden bird survey.
- M** Make a difference – Take part in a charity or good cause event.
- E** Environment – Go on a litter pick and make a difference in your local area.



# Hedgehog Survey

To make your tracking tunnel you will need -

- A thin base board - a stiff sheet of plastic / cardboard / wood or other suitable material that is 90cm long and 21cm wide (This will get covered in food, paint and animal poo so make sure it is something that can be thrown away afterwards)
- A4 Paper
- Paper clips (8)
- Masking Tape
- Black poster paint (or a colour that will stand out your paper)
- Vegetable oil
- Old paint brush
- Empty jam jar and lid or a pot with lid
- Bait – Hotdog sausage (cut up) or cat or dog food or Peanut butter
- 2 tent pegs
- Items that you can use to make a tunnel 1.2m long and 22cm wide
- Pair of old gloves



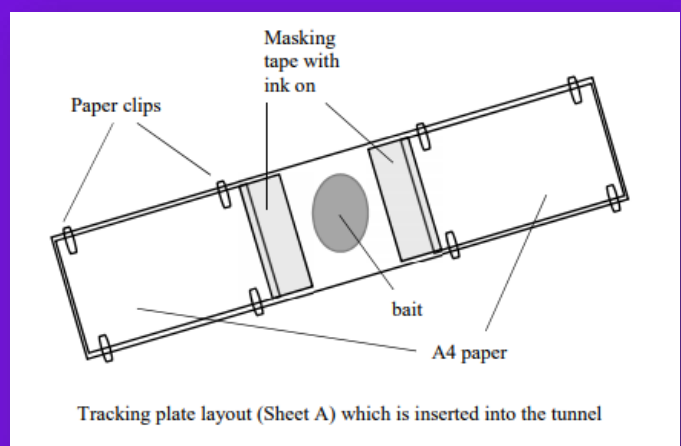
1. Find a suitable place in your garden / yard to build your tunnel where it won't be disturbed. Along a hedge or fence or hidden in a flower bed or under a bush.
2. Build your tunnel making sure you can slide the base board in and out easily. It needs to be waterproof to keep your paper dry, so you get some footprints. It needs to be about 22cm tall and can be square or triangular.
3. Prepare your base board so that it looks like the one in the picture.

Fix the A4 paper at each end using the paper clips

Stick the masking tape across the board at the inside edge of the paper, so that it forms 2 strips both 10cm wide (this is where you will put the paint mix once you are outside!)

The space in the middle is where you will put the bait (again do this outside!)

If it is likely to blow away, you can make a couple of holes at each end and use tent pegs to hold it down.



4. To make the ink, mix some powder paint with the oil using an old paintbrush in the jam jar (this is messy!!) It needs to be thick like syrup. Put the lid on so that it doesn't get spilt inside the house.
5. Take you base board, ink mix and bait outside. You need to work close to your tunnel.
6. Paint the ink on to the masking tape and put your bait in the middle of the base board.
7. Slide your base board into your tunnel so that it is all inside and will stay dry if it rains.
8. Go to bed! You will need to check your tunnel every morning to see if you have any footprints. Make sure you wear some old gloves as it might be messy with poo, ink and food. You will probably need to do this over several nights so that any animals in your garden get used to the tunnel and are brave enough to go through it.
9. When you get footprints on your paper, carefully remove it and replace it with new sheets. You may need to top up the bait if is eaten and if you get lots of footprints you may need to add some more ink to the masking tape.
10. Now you need to identify the animals using your tunnel. Here are the most common prints you may find



Examples of footprints recorded in the tracking tunnels

A – Squirrel

B – Hedgehog

C – Mouse / Vole

D – Rat

E - Cat



If you are lucky enough to have a hedgehog using your garden you can share your findings with Lancashire Wildlife Trust by using this link - <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/our-work/protecting-wildlife/wildlife-recording>