

YouShape Award Consultation



scouts.org.uk/YouShapeAward
#YouShape



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The future of Youth Shaped Scouting

We've come a long way.

Supporting young people to **make choices and take responsibility** is core to how we deliver Scouting.

Back in 2014, Scouting for All – our four-year strategic plan - laid out our ambition for Scouting to be **shaped by young people working in partnership with adult volunteers**. As part of that plan, we launched **YouShape** – an annual campaign supporting volunteers to encourage young people to make more decisions, shape their own programmes and take on leadership roles. Nationally, we also consulted young people on the future of Scouting, gathering feedback and awarding YouShape badges to all who took part.

Four years on, over 240,000 have since been sold, and hundreds of thousands of young people have engaged in shaping their adventure and taking the lead. But, despite our successes, our 2018 research revealed that only 50% of 13-17 year olds, 55% of Section Leaders and 39% of parents/carers believed that young people's opinions actually influenced decisions locally. That's why we're consulting on the future of YouShape to make it the best it can be.



Where next?

Our new strategic plan, Skills for Life, continues to prioritise Youth Shaped Scouting. By 2023, we want 250,000 young people to be shaping their experiences at Scouts each year. We know there is more that we can do to develop leadership skills in young people, to give them a voice in the movement and improve the quality, quantity and consistency of Youth Shaped Scouting.

To achieve our goals, we know that we need to further **embed Youth Shaped Scouting** - not as an annual campaign, but as a **key part of the programme**.

This is where our newly proposed **core award** comes in. A **YouShape Award** would give clarity on what Youth Shaped Scouting should look like **for each section** and provide a tangible way to deliver it. I believe this would give local Youth Commissioners a real focus for making Youth Shaped Scouting a reality, while also supporting new adult volunteers to deliver Youth Shaped Scouting and help our experienced adult volunteers to celebrate the achievements of young people.

A Core Award for Youth Shaped Scouting

As a movement, we want to support young people in developing leadership skills. We also want to instill the confidence and understanding they need to recognise and articulate the skills they've learned.

The proposed YouShape Award will bring together all of the section-specific activities Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers can do to make decisions, shape their Scouting, and take on more responsibility and leadership roles in their section. Promoted by local Youth Commissioners and delivered by Section Leaders, it would become just as embedded in our programme as any other badge or award, giving young people the opportunity to develop their own leadership style in a safe space, regardless of their age or role in the section.

Over to you

We want to hear the views of Youth Commissioners, Section Leaders and young people on these proposals. This pack gives you the space to feed back your views as an individual Youth Commissioner or Section Leader. It also contains everything you need to collect and submit the views of young people in your area throughout February as part of YouShape 2019. We'll take these views and decide whether a new YouShape Award is the right way to go and, if so, what it should look like.

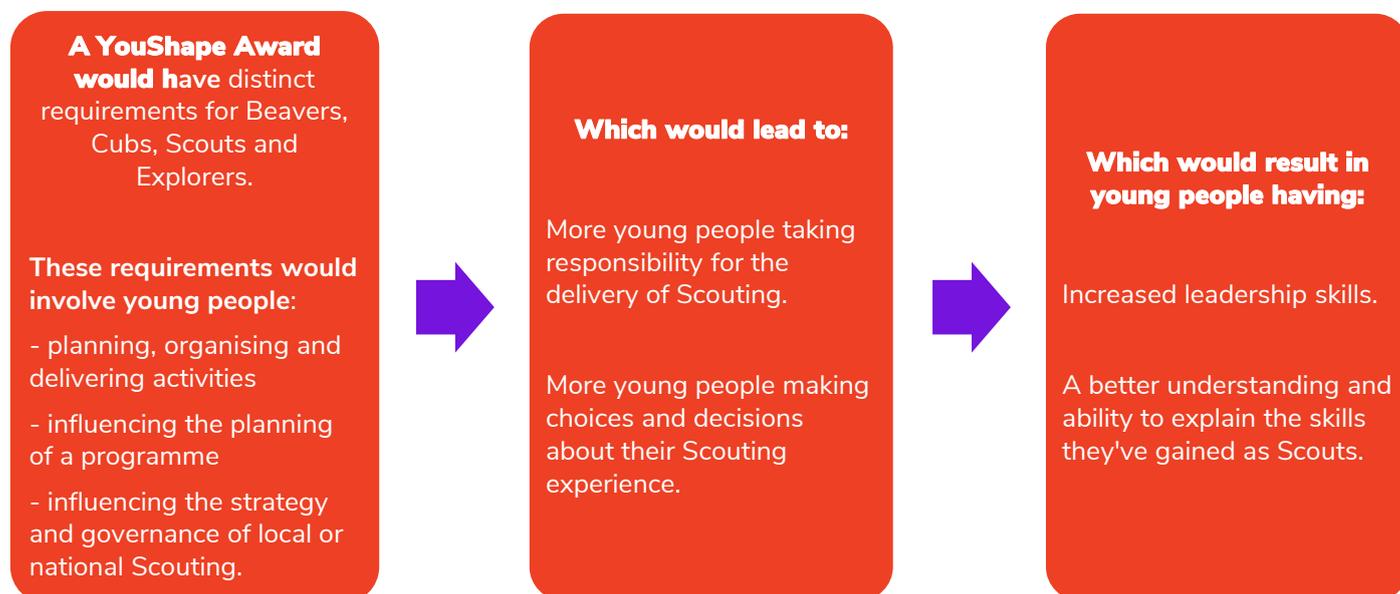
Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to your input into this consultation.



Ollie Wood
UK Youth Commissioner

YouShape Award consultation

We have a number of assumptions we want to test regarding a new core award to support Youth Shaped Scouting. As outlined in the diagram below, we believe that:



There are a number of opportunities and challenges involved with embedding a new YouShape Award within the 6-18 programme. In creating one, we would need to ensure that we link with, rather than duplicate, existing badges and awards. We believe a new YouShape Award could bring focus to the role of a local Youth Commissioner, giving them a tool to support Youth Shaped Scouting in their area.

Consultation objectives

We want to consult with you to find out what you think of the introduction of a YouShape Award - asking you about the assumptions we have about the award, and better understanding the activities you find most effective in making Scouting more youth shaped. The information we need from you depends on your role.

- **Youth Commissioners:** whether you agree or disagree with the assumptions we have about YouShape Award, we want to know whether you think it would be beneficial in helping you to deliver Youth Shaped Scouting. We also we want to hear about any activities you think are most effective at involving young people in the planning and delivery of their Scouting experience.
- **Section Leaders:** whether you agree or disagree with the assumptions we have about the YouShape Award, we want to hear about the activities you think are most effective at helping you deliver Youth Shaped Scouting. We are also asking you to consult your young people to feed back their views.
- **Young People:** we want identify the activities and opportunities young people think make Scouting more youth shaped. We also want to give them an opportunity to share their views on the award.

How to use this guide

Youth Commissioners and Section Leaders, you'll be asked to complete an online survey, giving your views on the proposed YouShape Award. On 1 February 2019, the survey will go live at scouts.org.uk/youshapeaward, and you'll have one month to submit your views. To see the questions in advance, turn to Appendix 1 and 2.

In February, you can also run a YouShape Award session with your section, using games and activities to gather their views before submitting them in the same online survey.

To help you plan and deliver this, we've provided you with a session plan, including descriptions of how to practically carry out each individual activity, although we expect many of you will be familiar with these already. Please feel free to add your own activities from the YouShape resources at scouts.org.uk/youshape, or to adapt the suggested activities however you see fit. The questions aimed at young people can be found in Appendix 3.

You can run the YouShape Award session as a short warm-up activity, or you could choose to dedicate a whole meeting to it. Section Leaders can take the lead, or your local Youth Commissioner can be invited in to run things – it's really up to you.

However you choose to run the session, the most important thing is that all young people are given the opportunity to voice their opinions freely. In doing so, they'll inform future decisions on the YouShape Award, and help us to deliver better opportunities to more young people. When you submit their views, remain impartial, reflecting whatever the majority of your young people felt was best for them.

Checklist

- Read through this pack. As you do so, reflect on your own experiences of Youth Shaped Scouting, and on your views of the proposed YouShape Award.
- Complete the online survey relevant to your role.
- If you're a **Section Leader**, create a session plan to gather views from young people on the YouShape Award, choosing the activities you think will best suit your section. You can do this by yourself, or with the help of your local **Youth Commissioner**.
- Run the session you have planned in February, by yourself or with the support of your local **Youth Commissioner**.
- Record the majority opinion amongst your young people, completing the online survey on their behalf by 1 March 2019.

Suggested session plan

This suggested session plan can be used as is, or adapted however you see fit. Instructions for each suggested activity are outlined in the following pages. At the end of each activity, make a note of the most common answers and opinions among your young people. Keeping track as you go will allow you to accurately represent their views in the online survey.

Time needed	Suggested activity	Purpose of activity	Questions to ask young people
5 minutes	Introduction (Casual chat)	Chat to the section about what Youth Shaped Scouting is. Explain that their opinions matter, and that you are going to ask them a few questions. These questions will help you to better understand how involved they currently feel in the section, and what we can do better.	Question 1. How many young people took part in the session discussing their views in Youth Shaped Scouting?
5 minutes	How often...? (Line up game)	Find out how involved your young people currently feel, and how often they get to use their skills to lead and deliver activities.	Question 2. How often do you feel like you have a say in what happens in your section?
			Question 3. How often do you use your skills to lead activities or games in your section?
15 minutes	Best ways to shape Scouting (Discussion groups or debate)	Gather your young people's ideas. How would they most like to make decisions about what happens in their section? Is there anything they'd like to lead on more often? What's the best ways of doing this?	Question 4a. In your opinion, how would you like to decide what happens in Scouting? Question 4b. In your opinion, how would you like to deliver or lead Scouting?
10 minutes	A YouShape Award (Voting session, using voting cards or hands up)	Find out if young people would like to work towards a YouShape badge if we were to offer one to them.	Question 5. Would you like to have a badge to recognise what you do to make decisions, deliver and lead activities?

<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Badge type</p> <p>(Discussion group or debate)</p>	<p>Find out what type of badge young people would most like to earn for their efforts.</p>	<p>Question 6. If we were to offer a badge like this, would you prefer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A badge you achieve once within the section (like an Activity Badge) - A badge you can achieve more than once if you keep trying (like a Staged Activity badge) - A number of badges which come together to make up a larger Award
<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Wrap up</p>	<p>Give young people the chance to add any other views.</p>	<p>Question 7. Do you have any other views or ideas about Youth Shaped Scouting? Is there anything you'd like to lead on more in your section?</p>

Suggested activities

We hope that these suggested will help you kickstart some useful discussions with young people in your section. We've made suggestions when we believe an activity might be best suited to particular question, but you can feel free to design the session around whatever you think will best suit your section.

Top Tip: You could ask an Explorer Scout Young Leader, a Patrol Leader or a Sixer to be involved with running these activities.

Line up

This activity works best when the answers to a question are relative to a scale. For example, it works particularly well for Questions 1 and 2, when you are trying to find out how often young people have a say in what happens within a section.

- Set up the room so that you have a piece of paper with 'Every Week' written on it at one end, and a piece of paper with 'Never' written on it at the other end. Draw a line between these two points, using tape or string.
- Next to the tape or string, place another three pieces of paper with 'Once a year' 'Every term', 'Every month' written on them so it creates a line with five options along it.
- Explain that you'll be asking questions to find out how involved everyone feels in their section. For each question, they'll point or stand next to the piece of paper with the word that best suits how they feel. Explain that there are no wrong answers and that they can move around if they change their mind.
- You may need to give context to help young people understand the question (especially if you're talking to Beavers or Cubs). Once they've made their decision, ask them to put their hands up to explain.
- Take a note of where the majority of your young people end up and submit their answers via the online survey.

Use for Questions 1 and 2

Resources needed

- **Signs with 'Never', 'Once a year', 'Once a term', 'Once a month' and 'Once a week' written on them**
- **Plenty of space to move around**
- **Tape or string for the floor**

Time

5 minutes

Voting Cards

- Give everyone a set of three voting cards (red, green, yellow).
- The red card represents 'no', the green represents 'yes' and the yellow represents being unsure or having an alternative idea. Explain this.
- Ask young people the questions, expressing their view by raising one of their cards.
- Record how many young people answered yes, no and unsure. Ask them to explain their answers.
- Make a note of the majority. This will be submitted into the online survey.

Use for Question 4

Resources needed

- **Three different colour cards per person**

Time

10-15 minutes

Discussion/debate

Having a group discussion or debate is great to give young people the opportunity to practice their skills of persuasion, listen to one another and come to conclusions.

- Introduce the questions and ask everyone to think about their own opinions.
- In groups, ask young people to discuss the best ways of helping them to decide what happens in their section or supporting them to deliver Scouting activities instead of adult volunteers. You could give them paper and pens to write or draw their ideas.
- After 10 minutes, ask each small group to agree on the best idea they have, before explaining it to the wider group.
- Ask everyone to vote on their favourite idea and take a note of it to submit into the online survey later.

Use for Questions 3, 5 and 6 (Q3 has been used as an example here)

Resources needed

- **The survey questions and a description of the award**
- **Paper and pens**

Time

10-15 minutes

Appendices

Appendix 1 | Questions for Youth Commissioners

Thinking about the assumptions, opportunities and challenges of the new YouShape Award outlined on page 5, please visit scouts.org.uk/youshapeaward and answer the following questions.

1. What are the best section appropriate activities or opportunities you know of, involving:
 - a. Young people planning, organising and delivering Scouting activities (eg planning and leading a Night Hike or camp).
 - b. Young people influencing the planning of a section programme (eg Log Chews and PL councils).
 - c. Young people influencing the strategy and governance of local or national Scouting (eg young people on Executive Committees).

Answer	Answer relevant to theme a, b or c

2. To what extent do you agree that these sorts of activities and opportunities would lead to:
 - a. More young people delivering Scouting activities themselves.



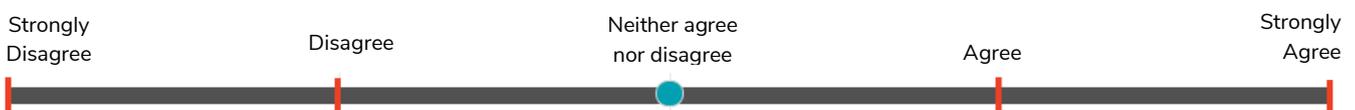
- b. More young people influencing decisions throughout Scouting.



3. Thinking about your answers so far, to what extent do you believe that a new YouShape Award would:
 - a. Help local Youth Commissioners undertake their role.

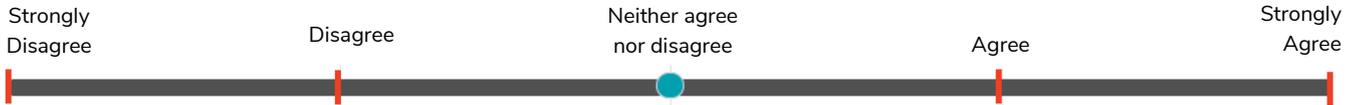


- b. Duplicate existing badge and award requirements.

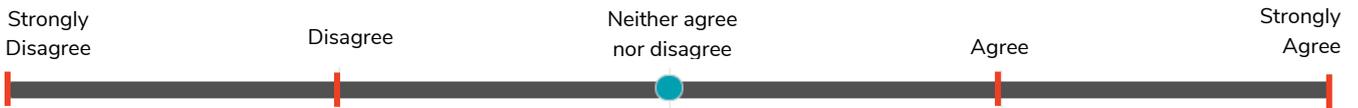


If you think it would, is that a problem?

c. Increase young people's leadership skills.



d. Help young people to better understand and explain the skills they've gained through Scouting.



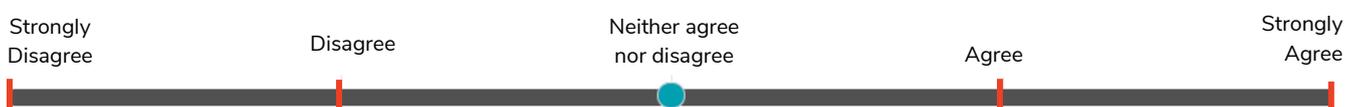
4. A new YouShape Award should help to embed Youth Shaped Scouting as a key part of what we do, at every stage of a young person's journey. To achieve this, we're suggesting the development of a segmented award, where a young person achieves multiple badges throughout their Scouting journey, depending on the activities undertaken. Each badge would form one segment of an entire YouShape Award. However, the YouShape Award could fit into a number of badge categories, and we want to hear your thoughts.

Do you think a new YouShape Award should:

- a. **Be segmented** – eg a young person achieves different badges within any given section, leading to one final, completed award, like the Explorer Young Leaders Scheme.
- b. **Be section specific** – eg a young person achieves the badge once within any given section, like existing Activity Badges.
- c. **Be staged** – eg a young person can achieve four or five versions of the badge throughout their time in Scouting, depending on the activities undertaken, and the volume or difficulty of these activities, like existing Staged Activity bages.
- d. Other.

5. Do you have any further views on the introduction of a YouShape Award for each section within the 6-18 programme?

6. Finally, to what extent do you support the introduction of the YouShape Award within the 6-18 programme?



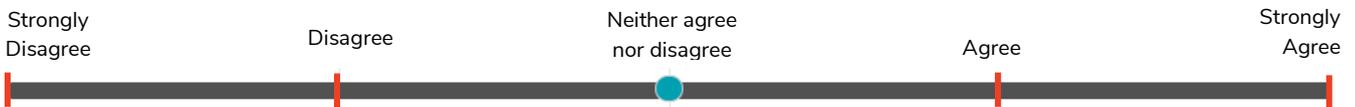
Appendix 2 | Questions for Section Leaders

Thinking about the assumptions, opportunities and challenges of the new YouShape Award outlined on page 5, please visit scouts.org.uk/youshapeaward and answer the following questions.

1. How often do your young people decide which activities they'd like to take part in together?

- Never
- Once a year
- Once a term
- Once a month
- Once a week

2. To what extent do you agree that young people in your section use their skills to help run Scouting activities for other young people?



3. Roughly how many Nights Away Event Passports have you issued to young people since January 2018 (for Scouts and Explorers)?

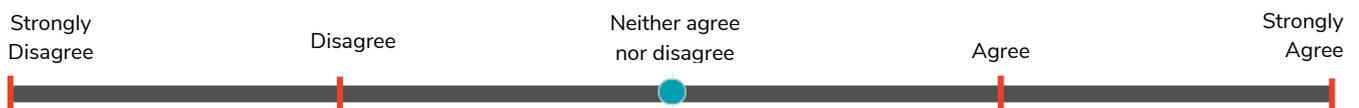
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Answer	Answer relevant to theme a, b or c

5. To what extent do you agree that these sorts of activities and opportunities would lead to:

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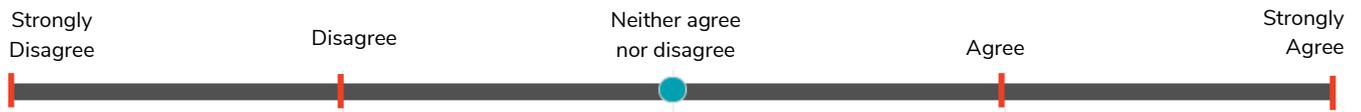


b. More young people influencing decisions throughout Scouting.



6. Thinking about your answers so far, to what extent do you believe that a new YouShape Award would:

a. Help local Youth Commissioners undertake their role.



b. Duplicate existing badge and award requirements.



If you think it would, is that a problem?

c. Increase young people's leadership skills.



d. Help young people to better understand and explain the skills they have gained through Scouting.



7. A new YouShape Award should help to embed Youth Shaped Scouting as a key part of what we do, at every stage of a young person's journey. To achieve this, we're suggesting the development of a segmented award, where a young person achieves multiple badges throughout their Scouting journey, depending on the activities undertaken. Each badge would form one segment of an entire YouShape Award. However, the YouShape Award could fit into a number of badge categories, and we want to hear your thoughts.

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- c. **Be staged** – eg a young person can achieve four or five versions of the badge throughout their time in Scouting, depending on the activities undertaken, and the volume or difficulty of these activities, like existing Staged Activity bages.
- d. Other.

8. Do you have any further views on the introduction of a YouShape Award for each section within the 6-18 programme?

9. Finally, to what extent do you support the introduction of the YouShape Award within the 6-18 programme?



Appendix 3: Questions for young people

We have six questions for young people in your section. To answer these run a session of activities/games and collect the majority views to submit on scouts.org.uk/youshapeaward.

1. How many young people took part in the session discussing their views on Youth Shaped Scouting?

2. How often do they feel like they have a say in what happens in their section?

- Never
- Once a year
- Once a term
- Once a month
- Once a week

3. How often do they feel like they use their skills to lead activities in their section?

- Never
- Once a year
- Once a term
- Once a month
- Once a week

4. In their opinion, how would your young people like to...

- a. Decide what happens in Scouting?
- b. Deliver or lead Scouting activities themselves?

Answer	Answer relevant to a or b

5. Would they want to have a badge to recognise what they did to make decisions, deliver and lead activities themselves?

Answer	How many
Yes	
No	
Other	

6. If there was a badge like this on offer, would your young people prefer:

- a. A badge that they achieve once within their Section (like an activity badge).
- b. A badge that they can achieve more than once if they keep trying (like a staged badge).
- c. A number of badges that come together to make one complete award.

7. Were there any other views or feedback that your young people had on Youth Shaped Scouting?