



ACT for Youth Campaign – FAQs

What does ACT for Youth mean?

Act for Youth is Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Policing's youth campaign designed to help educate 11 to 16 year olds on how to stay safe in the event of a firearms or weapons terrorist attack. Key advice is to follow [Run, Hide, Tell guidance](#) until police arrive on the scene but insight shows that this messaging is not always effectively reaching younger audiences.

A further summary is available [online at Gov.uk](#)

How has Scouting been involved in the development of the campaign?

Counter Terrorism Policing liaised extensively with UK youth groups and received backing from the Department for Education and many youth organisations, including The Scout Association. The team also collaborated with The PSHE Association, Girlguiding, St John Ambulance, the NSPCC and Childline in the creation of the film.

Is this just about terror attacks?

No, primarily it is a safety session and safety message we want the young people to explore and take away.

It is important to give reassurance throughout and to avoid 'worst case scenario' or stereotypical thinking. It is also important to note that neither the film nor the session plans place any focus on the perpetrators of the attack. They are never seen or discussed directly, as the motivation behind the attack is irrelevant to the safety message. The focus of this session is not violent extremism, or radicalisation. The RUN HIDE TELL message is relevant in any gun or knife attack, irrespective of who the attacker is or what their motivation for the attack might be. Whilst discussing gun and knife attacks can be a challenging topic, National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) believe equipping young people with this information will empower them to know how to avoid harm and will potentially save lives.

What is the audience for this in Scouting?

The age group of the campaign is 11 – 16 and therefore we recommend this material is used with the Scout and Explorer Scout sections.

We have piloted the material in West Yorkshire with an Explorer Scout Unit and with two World Scout Jamboree Units and their parents.

Before delivering this material to young people adults should first watch the 'Introduction to Counter Terrorism Awareness' which incorporates three short films. This can be found online here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/travel-industry-training-staff-to-deal-with-terrorist-incidents>

Where do I find the film and session resources?

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/CounterTerrorism/ACTforYouth.aspx>

There is a version specifically for Youth Organisations like us.

How should we use the material?

The animated film is designed to be delivered as part of a session and not in isolation. The pack conveys Run, Hide, Tell advice to a younger audience in an appropriate manner, with the messaging being divided into two lesson plans – one for Key Stage 3/11 to 14 years (Scouts) and another, more detailed lesson, for Key Stage 4/15 to 16 years (Explorer Scouts).

This Run Hide Tell package can then be followed by TREAT, a separate session in which bespoke and age appropriate trauma first aid guidance is presented. This session guides a young person on how to render first aid to themselves or another whilst HIDING and waiting for Police to rescue them. This has been created in conjunction with St John Ambulance.

A [leaflet](#) has also been produced to support the session and as something for young people to take away.

The material has been designed to take around 30 minutes of time to deliver, there is flexibility in this and the resource explains this. We recommend that this is not something that is delivered in isolation but is delivered as part of a package of safety messages such as what to do in the event of a fire for example.

You could use this material with young people attending large scale events such as WSJ Units as well as in sectional meetings.

Do I need parental consent to deliver this in Scouting?

As with all Scouting activities it is important to ensure that parents are comfortable with their child taking part, you will have systems in place for doing this already and will know your parents best. There is no formal requirement to ask for consent but always good to make sure that parents are aware in advance.

There is support and information on [page 7 in the resource pack](#) on ways to approach this with parents/guardians.

If Schools are delivering this why should we?

This is not something that will be compulsory for schools to deliver and we want to support all young people having the right information to keep themselves and others safe.

Can we deliver this at anytime?

It is advisable to think carefully about when to deliver this session. Whilst it is a key safety message that all young people could benefit from, there are particular occasions that would be **inappropriate for delivery**, such as:

- **In the immediate aftermath of an attack:** Whether an attack has personally affected any of the young people in your organisation or not, it is inappropriate to introduce the RUN HIDE TELL messaging in the immediate aftermath of a publicly reported attack, as the session may be more likely to be highly emotive or to unnecessarily distress young people.
- **On the anniversary of an attack:** Similarly, delivering a session about a gun or knife attack on a significant anniversary of a similar attack may lead to young people drawing parallels, becoming unduly distressed or highly anxious.
- **Immediately before an organised trip:** Although this may form part of an adult's risk assessment if leading a trip to a busy public place or major city, it would be inappropriate to raise this messaging with young people immediately before taking them on a trip. It is possible that introducing the RUN HIDE TELL message before a

trip may make young people more anxious about the trip, or lead them to believe that a gun or knife attack is highly likely, which might prevent them from choosing to attend. It is therefore better to deliver the workshop as part of a planned programme unrelated to a specific trip, with a quick reminder as part of a general safety pre-brief before residential visits or trips.

Are there any badges and awards that this can contribute to?

There is no specific badge but depending on how you deliver the session and particularly if this is alongside other safety messages it has links to the following badges and awards:



Scout Fire Safety Activity badge – you could work towards this badge at the same time, building in fire safety messages to the session.



Scout Local Knowledge Activity badge – part of the requirements are to locate the police station if in rural and suburban areas.



Scouts and Explorers Emergency Aid Staged Activity badge – particularly if delivering the TREAT activities. Stage 1 requires young people to know what to do when call 999 and the importance of getting help.

What is the adult's role in the event of an incident?

Adults are encouraged to take charge in the situation but to follow the RUN HIDE TELL message.

Information for adults can be found [online at Gov.uk](#) and additional information on [page 5 of the resource](#) for adults which it's important to be aware of before delivering this session.

The 'Introduction to Counter Terrorism Awareness' which incorporates three short films details adults role in taking charge in situations. This should be watched by adults before delivering the ACT for youth session with young people. The video can be found online here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/travel-industry-training-staff-to-deal-with-terrorist-incidents>

Like with all activities you should undertake a risk assessment of that activity / visit or trip and remember the [purple card](#) 'Safe Scouting and Emergency Procedures' for what to do in an emergency.

Advice for Large Scale Events

It is without doubt our intention to ensure that we create environments for all young people to experience the adventure of Scouting safely; clearly including large scale events. We should consider the proportionate and realistic measures needed to keep everyone safe.

The following advice is offered to the organisers of large scale events involving significant numbers of people:

- work in conjunction with statutory authorities (Local Authorities, Police, etc.) as appropriate to ascertain the threat level to events;
- undertake a detailed risk assessment taking into account the threat level ensuring that mitigating actions are proportionate and realistic; and
- ensure that emergency procedures are well documented and understood by those directly responsible for the management of events.

The following are signposts to helpful advice and guidance:

- Government advice on **Protecting crowded places from terrorism**
- Government advice on **Recognising the terrorist threat**
- National Police Chiefs' Council **Stay Safe** advice and information video

[Chapter 9 rule 9.6](#) of POR details what do if organising a large scale event and further support is available at www.scouts.org.uk/safety and choose the event organisation section.

If you have any feedback on these FAQs please contact info.centre@scouts.org.uk