

Guide to the Open College Network



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0845 300 1818

Introduction

As part of the new adult training scheme it is now possible for adults to work towards externally recognised awards through the training and the work they do as an adult in Scouting. This factsheet is an introduction to the awards and is intended to give basic information to prospective candidates. Further detailed information is provided on registration.

The Open College Network

The National Open College Network (NOCN) is the UK's foremost provider of accreditation services for adult learning. NOCN is a recognised national qualification awarding body and is the central organisation for 28 Open College Networks (OCNs) based across the UK. NOCN provides national qualifications and programmes in a wide range of subject areas and offers a local accreditation service through the OCNs. NOCN also works in partnership with organisations (such as The Scout Association) to develop learning strategies.

The Awards on offer

There are currently two full awards on offer:

- Providing Voluntary Youth Services is aimed at Section Leaders and those working directly with Young People and is a full award at Level 2 (see below for an explanation of levels).
- Managing Voluntary Youth Services is aimed at those in management roles in Scouting such as Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders. It is also a full award at Level 2.

It is also possible to complete 'single units'. Each full award is made up of a number of units. It is possible to register for one or more of the units without registering for a full award. This will usually happen in the case of Trainers, as there is no OCN award for trainers because it is hard to standardise the role of Trainer (as this often varies between those who tutor, train, present, direct and so on with each function requiring different skills). There are however units for Trainers to complete that fit in with the 'Supplementary Modules' in the new scheme and the old Certificates of Competence. Each of these units is at Level 3.

Completing the awards

To the awards you must prove that you can meet the assessment criteria for each unit (provided on registration). The assessment criteria should fit in with the role you have in Scouting and with validation criteria in The Scout Association's adult training scheme. Your Training Adviser will assess, from your evidence whether you have met the assessment criteria to the necessary standard.

The OCN units do not exactly match The Scout Association's training modules as some of the modules have been combined to form one OCN unit but they do cover exactly the same content. For example Module 8 'Skills of Leadership' and Module 9 'Working with Adults' have been combined to form one OCN unit called 'Team Working & Leadership'.

If you are taking part in the new adult training scheme, your Training Adviser will be able to assess you. If you already hold a Wood Badge for your role, you will need to ask your Local or

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

County/Area/Regional Training Manager to allocate a Training Adviser to you. Anyone who is working towards or has completed Module 25 'Assessing Learning' for Training Advisers can assess Open College Network Awards.

National Qualification Framework

All government-recognised qualifications and awards are put into a 'qualifications framework'. The two main awards, Providing and Managing Voluntary Youth Services have been accredited at Level 2. This means that they are comparable with a GCSE (Grade A*-C), an Intermediate GNVQ or a Level 2 NVQ.

The single units available for Trainers have been accredited at Level 3. This means they are comparable with an A-Level, an Advanced GNVQ or a Level 3 NVQ.

Cost

Every candidate will need to pay a registration fee of £40 and an assessment fee of £4 per unit.

The Providing Voluntary Youth Services Award has eleven units and the Managing Voluntary Youth Services has nine units.

The registration fee is a one off payment so if you wish to complete another award you do not need to pay it again.

Registration

The Scout Association handles registration centrally. Application forms are available from the Information Centre.

More information

For more information contact:

OCN Awards
Adult Support Office
The Scout Association
Gilwell Park
Chingford
London
E4 7QW

020 8433 7100

adult.support@scout.org.uk

NB: Please do not contact the Open College Network (either your local college or nationally), as they will not be able to give you detailed information on the awards.