

Explorer Belt

The end game

Factsheet 6 in the Explorer Belt Series



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Introduction

Once the Explorer Belt expedition has been completed, the participants will feel exhausted, excited or both. They will have an extraordinary sense of achievement. At this stage the end game begins. It is important at this stage not to belittle anything that the participants have done. They should be encouraged to start to think ahead to their Explorer Belt presentation and to ordering their thoughts while things are still fresh in their minds.

Debriefing stage

If at all possible, before they leave the country, the participants should be given the opportunity to talk about their experiences, either to each other or the leaders of the expedition. This should be done in an informal way and should in no way be judgemental. The reason for this debriefing is to help the participants start to order their thoughts for their presentation when they return home. They should be asked to reflect on the people they met, the experiences they had, what they learned about the country, about themselves and about each other and what they achieved.

If you they have been part of a large organised Explorer Belt expedition, you may want to allocate each participant to a member of the Core Team to act as a mentor before, during and after the expedition. This mentor can be the main point of contact for the participant in the planning stages of the expedition and would be the best-placed person to undertake the debriefing afterwards.

You may also want to give thought to debriefing teams of participants instead of individuals. This

may be more constructive and seen to be less threatening to the participants. You will have to ensure that all members of the team take an active part in the debriefing process and prevent the talkative ones eclipsing the quiet ones.

The participants should be encouraged to take notes during the debriefing process to help with their presentation when they get home. Diaries should be reviewed and additional notes made by the participants on topics which they had made only brief notes on. The person undertaking the debriefing may also want to take some notes for future reference.

Presentation stage

When they return home, participants should be encouraged to make their presentation as soon as is practical, while events and memories are fresh in their minds. They should make their presentation to a suitable audience; this could be their Explorer Scout Unit, the District Explorer Scout Meeting, their local Scout Network or the District AGM. The diary should be used to help plan the presentation.

The best presentations are well ordered. Start at the beginning and work chronologically through the 10 days of the expedition. Cover the projects as they were done – alternatively, cover them all at the end of the expedition report. Use visual aids to help make your presentation more interesting. Photographs taken during the expedition are a great way to illustrate your talk. If you have access to a computer and can download images into slide presentation, this might be a good method to use. Remember however, that there are many other ways to make an interesting presentation without boring

people by relying on technology to deliver your presentation!

Be enthusiastic when making your presentation. Organise who is going to say what – this is particularly important if you are making a joint presentation with others. No presentation should last more than 30-45 minutes.

Your audience might find it interesting if you have had time to decorate the hall where you plan to make your presentation with material you have used or obtained during the expedition e.g. maps of your route, pamphlets or leaflets or posters describing different aspects of the places visited, items of local produce and so on.

The Assessment

The presentation should be assessed by a small team comprising one of the expedition leaders (in a group expedition) or a member of the local Scout Network (for 'going your own way' expeditions), a leader from the local Explorer Scout Unit or local Scout Network co-ordinator and one other chosen by the District, County or Area.

The presentation and expedition should be assessed on the basis of whether the whole Explorer Belt experience has developed the participant in a positive way. It **must not** be assessed to any rigid criteria imposed by the assessment team, the District, County or Area. It would also be expected that normally all members of any Explorer Belt team would receive the award, unless there are exceptional reasons why this is not appropriate.

The Award process

Once you have decided to award the Explorer Belt, you will need to contact the Information Centre at Gilwell Park. Once they have received payment for the cost of the Belt, they will dispatch the correct number of belts and certificates (signed by the Chief Scout) to the member of the assessment team who contacted them.

If the assessment team is confident that the Explorer Belt is likely to be awarded after the

presentation, the notification form can be submitted in advance of the presentation in order that the belt can be made available prior to the presentation and presented on the night.

You should take the opportunity to tell others about how the young people that you worked with went about undertaking their Explorer Belt. This information is displayed on the Explorer Belt pages on Scoutbase UK (linked from the Explorer Scout and Scout Network pages) and will form a valuable resource for young people considering undertaking their Explorer Belt in the future. A pro-forma (Microsoft word document) can be downloaded from the site. This should be completed and e-mailed as an attachment to explorer.belt@scout.org.uk.

Factsheets

The factsheets in the Explorer Belt series are:

1. Explorer Belt – Introduction
2. Explorer Belt – Going your own way
3. Explorer Belt – Organising a group expedition
4. Explorer Belt – Project suggestions
5. Explorer Belt – Useful contacts
6. Explorer Belt – The end game