

EXPLORERS

Bedale Explorer Unit 2019/20

The year started out where we left off last year with a healthy growing group with numbers holding steady at c30 Explorers who are always up for an adventure.

Our first outing took us to Scarborough for a survival skills and activities camp which was the culmination of many nights at Blackhills in preparation. The Explorers built their own shelters and cooked their meals on open fires. When their survival activities were completed, we built in some adventurous activities for the Explorers to experience. The choices on offer were Coasteering around the sea cliffs or Clay Pigeon shooting with a CPSA instructor.

A fantastic time was had by both groups and in the shooting group we now have an Explorer who has continued it as a hobby and shoots now on a regular basis. When the day was over we all enjoyed fish and chips together looking out to sea.

The camp also gave the Explorers the chance to hike and develop their map reading skills. They were dropped off in 'secret' locations and challenged to navigate their way to a base.



At HQ we have had a real variety of things on offer to the Explorers and taken part in several events. The most memorable evening being a rock & roll night where two dance instructors came down and put the explorers through their paces with some jive sessions.

The Explorers have taken part in the memory walk and were welcomed as part of the Queensbury community Remembrance Sunday parade this year.

As part of their volunteering they worked at Blackhills repairing the road surface into camp.

We worked on the Chef's badge over winter cooking meals both indoor and out with great success. We invested several new Explorers whilst saying goodbye to those who reached their 18th birthday and awarded many Scouting and D of E awards along the way.

D of E training began early in the year with Bronze and Silver teams having the opportunity to have a training weekend at Hebden Hey to develop their skills with the intention of completing expeditions in July and September.

As part of our offer to the explorers we have booked another trip to Switzerland for high adventure in 2021. As part of this we have had a variety of fund raising to help offset the cost. In early March we held a Race night kindly hosted by Nick and Gill Tindall. Support was excellent and we raised a substantial amount over the two events. We are currently keeping watch on government and scouting advice to see how we can proceed with this.



Covid 19 hit and we had to close our doors to face to face scouting. As a group we have an excellent closed group Facebook page which we use to communicate regularly with parents and Explorers. This has been a blessing during the current pandemic as it has enabled us to stay in touch and have a virtual meeting each week where challenges tasks and puzzles have been a source of household competition across the group. Who knows when we will get back to normality but at Bedale we have remained strong and resilient.

I wish to thank all my leaders that give up their time week in week out to ensure the Explorers get a fabulous diet of skills, knowledge, adventure and fun. Without you it would not be possible. Thank you Adam, Danny, Darren, Tracey and Trevor for everything you do and making Explorers a great place to learn and have fun along the way. A final thank you to our Explorers, an amazing bunch of young people who are quite literally up for anything!

Nial Sherrard
Explorer Scout Leader