

Scouting & Guiding

Building relationships between the corps and Scout / Guide groups



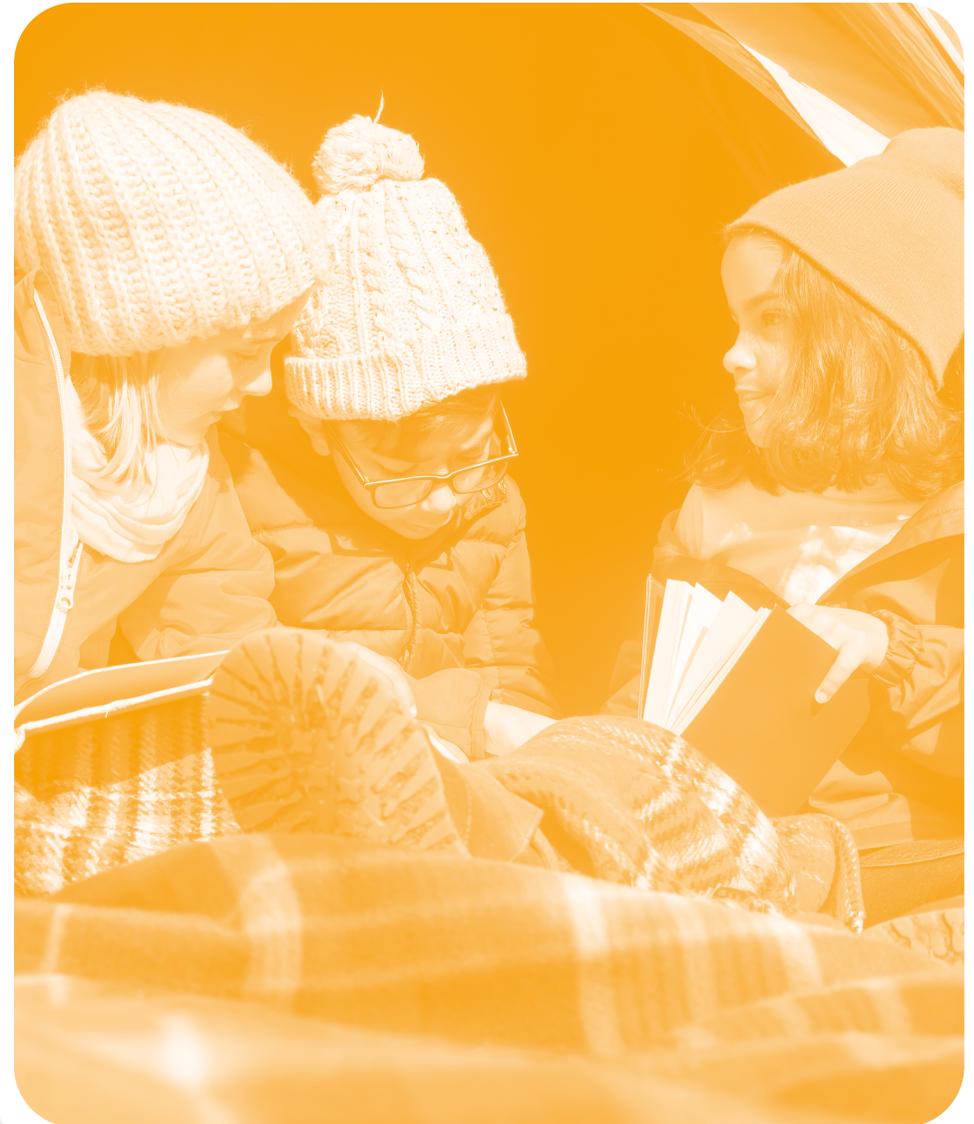
Children & Youth



Building positive relationships amongst all people within our corps programmes, including those groups who use our buildings is key to the life of a thriving corps.

For some corps it can be more of a challenge to have positive relationships with the leaders and young people that are part of the corps through the Scout and Guide groups, simply because they are not always viewed as being integral to the whole corps.

This document presents some practical ideas that may help you develop the relationship between the corps and the Scout and Guide groups. They might not all work for you and some may not be appropriate for your circumstances but hopefully there will be some that you can use. At the end of the list is a list of resources that may provide additional help.



Get to know the Leaders, Young People and Parents

- 1 Be available** at the beginning or end of meetings for 10 minutes and hang out with the parents. Let them know that the hall is not just the Scout or Guide hall but also a church.
- 2 Write a letter** to all the leaders in the Scouting and Guiding sections; tell them about yourself and ask what they're plans are for the coming months. Try and provide support and involvement from the rest of the corps in your calendar of children's and youth activities.
- 3 Turn up** (invited or uninvited) to meetings and offer to help out. Make the drinks, run a game, take a group or just be an extra pair of hands. You're likely to find some very grateful leaders!
- 4 Offer to run an activity**, it can be as simple as sharing a story through to running a whole night on behalf of the leaders. For ideas on what to do, see the Resources section at the end.
- 5 Invite the leaders** to a meal, either with just yourself or the rest of the Young People's (YP) team. This could be at someone's home or perhaps enjoying fish and chips in the hall together! Having a meal together is a great way to get to know people informally.
- 6 Invite the leaders** to a Young People's (YP) Team meeting and involve them in the decision-making on the events and programmes at your corps (and in the division) for children and young people.



Break down barriers

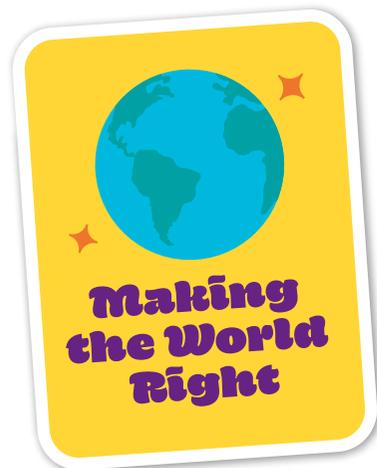
All the Scout Sections have faith awards that include finding out about places of worship. Offer to show the young people in a section around the main hall. Explain what the flags represent; allow them to see what the hall looks like from the platform; get them to try on a uniform. You could also use some of the resources from the Ultimate Church Visit, available from salvationist.org.uk/resources. Don't forget to invite them along on the following Sunday to the meeting and Sunday School.

Scouting & Guiding

When you have a church parade remember that it may be the only time that some of the young people and their parents come to church.

Bring the corps to the groups. Hold special meetings on the night sections meet that is aimed directly at the young people and their parents. If you have musical sections (YP or senior), you could ask them to come along and give them a feel for what they're missing on a Sunday.

Bring the YPSM / Children's Team Leader to Scout and Guide meetings with you. Make sure that the views and needs of the Scouts and Guides are taken into account when doing long-term planning.



Get them involved

Involve the Scouting and Guiding sections in other Children and Youth events at the corps. If you have a prize-giving day, remember to invite them along to present them with their awards. If there is an outing or other special event, put up posters and give out letters inviting those in the Scouts and Guides. If you are running the Youth Alpha, Youth Cell or other youth programme, invite the Explorer Scouts and Guide Ranger Section members to come along too.

If you are holding any special event (guest speaker, carol service, celebrations, etc), make sure that they know what's happening and feel welcome to come along. You can do this with a letter, but it will be more personal if you tell them yourself.

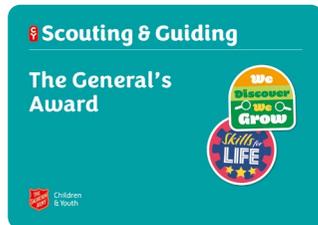
How about helping the Scouting and Guiding sections to achieve the first 3 badges of the General's Award? The Corps Officer, Divisional Commander

and Territorial Commander Awards are a good way to share about the Salvation Army as you get to know the young people.

Get the rest of the corps involved

There may be people who are members of the corps who can help the Scout and Guide group either as a leader, a skills instructor or simply as a friend to the group. Willing volunteers who can go along occasionally to see how the groups are doing will help to improve relationships with the corps as a whole. (Remember that anyone who will be making regular visits to Scout or Guide groups will need to complete a DBS for the Scout or Guide association as well as The Salvation Army).

Other Scouting & Guiding resources:



The Generals Award



Why have Scouting and Guiding at your corps?



Programme ideas to welcome your new Corps Officers

Digital versions of these resource are available by scanning the QR code to view the website; or you can email us on childrencyouth@salvationarmy.org.uk



Scouting & Guiding



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