

Squirrels



The Autumn Term

Programme Support

Scouts
High Peak



Squirrels

Introduction

'The Autumn term is possibly one of the best times of the year for scouting. September marks the start of the new academic year, often meaning new Squirrels will join your drey. The first week or two lend themselves to introductory games and activities to let everyone settle in after the Summer holiday.

As Summer fades, you can still benefit from the light evenings with outdoor activities. Autumn brings falling leaves and hibernation; perfect for a nature walk. Indoors, have a go at pumpkin carving or discover traditions such as Bonfire Night and Diwali.

There are fantastic ideas for activities and sessions in this booklet with many more on the Scout's website. Alternatively, contact other Squirrel leaders to find out what works for their drey.

Take advantage of the skills in your leadership team to create the best programme possible!

Harry Woodward

District Programme Lead (Squirrels and Beavers)

High Peak Scouting



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Welcome Week

A new academic year usually means new Squirrels. The first night back after a long break can be daunting, so keep it simple with friendly and welcoming activities. It may be a nice idea to have a chat as a Drey to find out what being a Squirrel means. A story about teamwork could also work.



You could:

- Play a game such as 'Captain's Calling' to use some energy.
- Create a simple Code of Conduct.
- Sign your Code of Conduct using handprints and create a work of art for your hut.

When playing games in the first few weeks, try to keep everyone involved and avoid games where you become 'out'.

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Bonfire Night

'Remember, remember the Fifth of November'. Discover the story behind Bonfire Night and create a piece of firework art using paint blowing or scratch art.

You could even get involved in your community and attend your local bonfire as a drey. Invite parents and careers along and turn the evening into a family night.

Diwali

Diwali is the Hindu festival of light celebrated in October or November; depending on the moon. Delve into Diwali and work towards your 'Let's Celebrate' activity badge.

You could:

- Create a Diya lamp.
- Design a piece of Rangoli art.
- Have a day trip to a Hindu temple.



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It's all about me!

The Challenge Award badges contribute to the Chief Scouts Acorn Award (the highest award in Squirrels). These badges take longer than an activity badge. Spreading them out across longer periods of time makes them easier to achieve.

'All About Me' looks at what makes us all unique and special. There are four requirements for this badge, which can be found here:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/squirrels/awards/all-about-me/>.

You could:

- Create a picture about what makes you special.
- Make and decorate biscuits with your favourite toppings.
- Design caring cards for your community.



A story about individuality would introduce the squirrels to the ideas of 'All About Me'.

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Teddy Bear First Aid

Work towards Emergency Aid Level 1 and practise bandaging skills on a teddy bear. Discuss how to get help and keep everyone calm. Have a go at putting each other in the recovery position.

Remember, first aid could be a bit worrying for some squirrels, so keep it fun, light-hearted, and interactive.

Practical Skills

Get stuck in learning a few 'SkillsForLife'; this is what Scouting is all about.

In sessions you could:

- Have a go at replacing a battery in your favourite toy.
- Learn how to independently zip you coat up.
- Roll and put your necker on.

At home, you could:

- Brush your own teeth.
- Set the table before a meal.
- Take care of a plant.

Undertaking practical skills can also work towards the 'All About Me' challenge award.



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Nights Away

At first, a Squirrel sleepover may seem scary, but they are an amazing way to work through badges, get to know your drey, and have fun. Whilst not essential, nights away are great for adding the finishing touch to an outstanding programme.

In the High Peak we have a team of Nights Away Advisors who can help you gain a Nights Away permit. If you're not quite ready to have the permit yourself, speak to permit holders in your group and see if they are happy to help with a Squirrel sleepover.

Top tips:

- Keep it simple; stay indoors at your hut for one night.
- Have a theme to explore. For example: space, the ocean, craft.
- Enjoy an extended session before the sleepover to see how your Squirrels act and behave when away from home for a long time.

Case study

1st Chinley Squirrels enjoyed a sleepover at their hut in the Spring term. This sleepover had a construction theme, with Squirrels getting stuck in building enormous cardboard and Duplo towers. As with normal sessions, linking a story to your theme can inspire Squirrels to give the activities a go. Using pop up tents indoors makes the Squirrels feel like they really are sleeping under canvas!



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Chief Scout's Acorn Award

The Chief Scout's Acorn Award is the highest award a Squirrel can earn and is a great achievement. To gain their award, they must:

- Complete the four challenge award badges.
- Complete at least two activity badges.



YouShape Award

The YouShape Award allows Squirrels to contribute to their programme. There are four parts:

- The Core badge
- Plan
- Lead
- Represent

The core badge should be completed first, and the other three can be completed in any order.



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Further Support and Inspiration

You can find lots of programme ideas and inspiration on the Scouts website. Get in touch with other Squirrel leaders to find out what works for other dreys. You may want to join a Squirrels Facebook group to find ideas.

For further support speak to your Group Lead Volunteer or email beavers@highpeakscouting.org.uk.





#SkillsForLife

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