

Squirrel Badge Award Training 2018



To ensure that young people between 4 and 6 years of age experience good quality Squirreling, the NI Squirrel Association requires each adult Leader in Squirrels to demonstrate a range of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are relevant to their role. Adult training is provided to help adults gain these and this is facilitated through a number of different training modules. In the past, this training began with a locally based 'Getting Started', followed by 12 other modules, run on a Squirrel specific basis or with Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders. During 2017 numbers attending training decreased considerably and the NI Squirrel training team decided to work on re-vamping the Squirrel Badge Award training.

Currently we are looking at:

- ✓ Squirrel specific one-day course covering all Squirrel specific modules
- ✓ Incorporating Getting Started into the Squirrel specific training day
- ✓ Training support workshops and Validation evenings
- ✓ Running the Squirrel specific modules or one-day courses at venues around the Province according to need and numbers applying

The Squirrel Badge Award training scheme is based on two key elements:

Learning

This is when you have the opportunity to gain or improve the knowledge and skills needed for your role. Learning is made up of Squirrel specific training and some inter-sectional modules along with Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders. The inter-sectional modules focus on your role as an adult Leader and a member of the Scout Group Leadership team.

Validation

This is when your Training Advisor will check that you can apply what you have learnt to your role. Validation is essential for every module.

Training Advisors and on-going support

It is important that before you start your role that all necessary AccessNI vetting forms and Adult Application forms are completed. As a new Leader, you will meet with a Training Advisor who will explain the Squirrel Badge Award training scheme. A Training Advisor's role is to support you through your training, they will help you create a Personal Learning Plan to support you.

It is important to renew First Aid and Safeguarding requirements periodically and to continue learning by attending training opportunities offered by NI Squirrel Association or local Scouting.

The Squirrel specific training will cover:

Areas of information originally included in Getting Started modules - **Essential Information, Tools for the Job & Changes in Scouting**

Fundamentals – explores the link between the values of the NI Squirrel Association and a balanced programme

Administration – provides information and best practice on how to manage administrative tasks in the Drey

Running Safe Activities – provides information and support on how to ensure indoor and outdoor activities are planned, organised and run safely

Supporting Young People – explores the characteristics, needs and influences of the Squirrel age range and beyond and looks at how Squirrels responds to these

Promoting Positive Behaviour – looks at ideas to promote positive behaviour in the Drey and appropriately manage challenging behaviour

Providing a Balanced Programme – provides information and support material to promote the delivery of a fun, exciting and developmental balanced programme and ensure that it meets the needs of young people

International – explores how international aspects can be included in the balanced programme and to be aware of the importance of the world-wide nature of Scouting

Practical Skills – highlights how beneficial learning takes place and how to pass on practical skills to members of the leadership team and young people

Intersectional Modules

Module 10 – 1st Response – First Aid for all adults working with young people of any age

Module 07 – ‘Scouting for All’ – explores diversity equal opportunities, beliefs and values and inclusivity as a member of a leadership team

Module 08 – Skills of Leadership

Module 09 – Working with Adults

Module 13 – Growing the Section

These modules explore the role of an adult leader and their responsibilities as a member of the Sectional leadership team and the Scout Group