

## Open Night – Steps to Success

Open nights/sessions are an opportunity to showcase Scouting to potential new members, both adults and young people. Here are a few top tips to help you when planning an open night.

- Make sure you advertise the event well. You could distribute flyers via local schools, libraries and community centres. Upload information to websites and community listings.
- Ensure you have an appropriate venue, will it be warm? Is there enough room for several activities to run at the same time? Can refreshments be served? Is it easy to find? Does it give the right image for Scouting? Are the displays round the room up to date?
- Build a team and assign them with specific tasks. Use existing leaders to run activity bases and games, while others talk to parents, collect contact details and serve refreshments.
- Ensure that any activities you chose to run are accessible to all and appropriate to the age range you have invited, such as:
  - Roasting marshmallows on a tea-light
  - Mini-pioneering with spaghetti and mini-marshmallows
  - Games: Cat and mouse, ladders, fishes in the net
  - Parachute games
  - Simple knotting challenges
  - Pitching a hike tent
- Try not to wear full Scout uniform- wearing a polo shirt and scarf or similar is much more relaxed and welcoming to any potential new volunteer
- Display and provide information about adult volunteering, this is an opportunity to sign up volunteers as well as youth members.
- Have forms ready for people to complete and explain what the follow up process is and who to contact for more information.
- Issue everyone with a 'goodie bag' or a 'thanks for coming' and how to stay in touch details.
- Have fun. So everyone goes away with the scouting bug and can't wait to return for more adventures.