

Residential Training Experience

The time, 9.00am on Saturday 14th April – five trainers and two valuable members of the service team arrived at Shacklewell Hollow, Stamford and Bourne District's Campsite and prepared for the arrival of 25 adult leaders who would be residing for the weekend to take part in the first multi-module training experience. There were a further 8 leaders who would be dropping in for single module training throughout the weekend.

The aim of the course was to provide modules 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 to a dedicated, enthusiastic and extremely friendly group of adult leaders from Lincolnshire and Rutland Scout Counties. A variety of training methods were used with plenty of breaks for leaders to exercise their legs and partake in some refreshments outside, taking advantage of the wonderful, hot and sunny weather.

Del and Alma Marshall were on hand to provide the obligatory health and safety brief and made sure the staff were happy with the workings of the electrical generator, dormitories and kitchen set up.



After the welcome brief and introductions, the course started off with me presenting Module 5 (Fundamental Values of Scouting). Immediately, new friendships formed that would last throughout the weekend and beyond.

Linda was up next to introduce the DVD of Module 6 (Changes in Scouting) followed by a short quiz to complete the session. Ray then came on and did Module 7 (Valuing Diversity), again on DVD but with a much more in depth introduction on the Equal Opportunities Policy. It was then my turn to cover Module 8 (Skills of Leadership) with Jill finishing the day off with Module 11 (Administration). There was a lot of information to remember in such a short period of time yet the participants' enthusiasm never waned. Mealtimes and breaks proved a great time for sharing Scouting experiences and after the Saturday closing an impromptu campfire was set up by the participants. Having a particular liking to campfires I couldn't resist the urge to pop down to the campfire circle. Witnessing three fence panels being put on the fire at the same time had me heading for the hills rather quickly with shouts of, "I don't want anything to do with this!" However, there was no need to worry because the leaders had it all under control. In fact, first thing Sunday morning, Ray and I went to inspect the remains but couldn't find anything. Everything had been tidied up!

After a hearty breakfast, we saw the arrival of more leaders dropping in for a module or two and they were made extremely welcome by all. Linda and Jill, ably assisted by Amanda, took care of the morning's training (Module 14 – Young People Today and Module 15 – Challenging Behaviour) with Ray completing the day with module 12 (Providing a Balanced Programme). The experience ended with an award ceremony with staff members presenting certificates and handing out the new factsheet CDROM.

Particular mention must go to the members of the service team who kept us fed and watered throughout the weekend. Elaine and Sandra from Lincoln did a fantastic job and produced a never ending supply of well prepared meals and snacks. Fancy doing it all again in September?

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to all the leaders who gave up their weekend to take part in the first of many residential training experiences. Their participation throughout contributed to its success. Finally, thanks to Ray Dennis, Linda Wilson, Jill Snoxall, Amanda Pues, Elaine Anderson and Sandra Donnor – without you, it would never have happened.

Steve Barley
Course Director