



SCOUTS PREPARE TO TAKE ON CENTENARY CHALLENGE

Boys and girls at the First Caythorpe and Dukes Covert Scouts, near Sleaford, are trying to complete 100 tasks in 100 days to win the entire event.

Challenge 100 was set up by the Scouting Association to celebrate the organisation's centenary year. More than 3,500 patrols nationwide entered the first challenge which was to do as many tasks as possible in 100 minutes.

And two patrols from the Caythorpe group got into the top 100 to compete in the final. Since then, the youngsters have been hard at work completing as many challenges of the 100 set by the association as possible.

Leader of the group Steve Phillips said he was very proud of the youngsters.

"The best thing is they've organised it themselves and arranged meetings at each others' houses," he said.

"Primarily it's been good fun but it has really been a good challenge. It has helped them to develop and make a positive contribution to society. They are learning to make a real commitment and the parents have also been very supportive.

"Without realising it the young adults have been exploring, working as a team and learning about global issues. The task is due to finish in May and is making a big difference to their perception of themselves and the world around them."

Alastair Hutton (13), a member of one of the patrols that made it to the final, said the competition had been great fun.

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"I knew we'd done well in the first part of the competition but didn't realise we'd done well enough to get through to the final.

"I like the scouts because we get to meet with friends and we learn lots of things that will be useful later in life such as leadership and team building.

"I'm looking forward to trying to throw paper aeroplanes 100 metres."

Alastair's mum Kathryn is also a great fan of the contest.

"These days you often find that children are not allowed to do things because of safety issues but this gives them a safe environment to do all these things," said the primary school teacher.

"They're fortunate to have their base out in the woods and have done all sorts of things such as rock climbing and abseiling."