

Chester and District Scouts Youth Forum Weekend 2023

On 7th and 8th October, 31 Scouts and Explorers from across Chester attended our 2023 Youth Forum Weekend. We had representatives from:

DEWA ESU	1 st Christleton	8 th Chester
Garrison ESU	1 st Saltney	40 th Chester
Maverick ESU	1 st Sandstone	42 nd Chester
Spartan ESU	1 st Tarvin	48 th Chester
Wolf ESU	1 st Upton	Cestrian

It was great to see such a strong turnout, and everyone did their groups / units proud. As well as feedback and planning sessions, we did activities like pioneering, climbing, and our very own Taskmaster morning. Have a look at our Facebook and Instagram to see the photos.

We talked about lots of activities – some of which we already do, and some we are looking at for future.

Existing Activities

- Watersports – some of the young people weren't aware that we offered this opportunity but were interested in taking part. Watersports have now finished for the winter but will return in March/April. Please keep an eye out for the info and email watersports@chesterscouts.org.uk with any questions.
- Hike training – Please make sure your young people have been sent the dates for 2023/24. The Explorers asked that the distances were increased this year, to be more in line with Cheshire Hike. The hike team have listened to this and are planning extra distance for the Explorers on most hikes.

New Activities

- Winter Camp – there was a strong interest in bringing back Winter Camp from both Scouts and Explorers, who also had excellent ideas for activities. The District Team are looking into options and are keen to make it happen!
- Bike rides/maintenance – there was also a lot of interest in this, possibly to be run in a similar way to the hike training. Another thing that the District Team are looking into – watch this space!
- Other activities – lots of other activities were suggested and a complete list is on the next page. Unfortunately, we don't have time to offer all the activities as a district, but you may want to explore running them for your group

Axe throwing (proper axes)	Zipworld (North Wales)	Go Karting
Gilwell 24 (our own similar event)	Fundraising for other charities	Paintballing
Archery (not soft)	Caving	Scouting Skills (tents, knots, fire lighting etc.)
Theme Park Camp for Scouts	Monopoly Run	Climbing

We will look at the feasibility of running some of the activities as a district, such as Theme Park Camp (for Scouts) and Monopoly Run. It would be great to see groups doing some of the other activities!

YouShape Award

The YouShape Award is all about giving young people opportunities to speak up and take the lead. We are already good at this in Chester, but we want to be even better! The Youth Team are here to support you with this, so please get in touch if we can help.

Everyone who attended the Youth Forum has earned the central and represent badges so please make sure these are awarded.

Next time – Save The Date!

Our next youth forum is pencilled in for 20th January 2024. We are looking at bowling at the request of the young people. More details to follow but save the date!