

Small Groups in Action - Crew Expedition



The Activity:

Organise a crew expedition.

The Rover Challenge

- Participation – Take on a specific role
- Leadership – Organise the activity

ASSES

Adventure

SPICES

Physical

Before I make important lifestyle choices I will inform myself of all the risks/benefits involved, recognise and understand the impact of my choices on myself and others.

Intellectual

Demonstrate an ability to assess situations, identify resources, make an informed choice, form my own opinions, and recognise the best possible solution to a given situation.

Plan:

Expeditions should strive to include the following elements;

- The Scout Method
- Service Project Cycle (Funding/ Service/ Celebration)
- Personal Progression – It should help Rovers working towards their Rover Challenge, Chief Scout Award, or Adventure Skills.

How to achieve a crew expedition (Home or Abroad):

- Decide what you want to do
- Find someone who has this kind of event before or has experience in the area (ask for advice on how you could go about planning the expedition)
- Will there need to be a limitation on numbers
- Things to be divided between people for planning (instead of having one person doing everything); accommodation, programme, food, travelling, budget, contingency (insurance, training)
- Put the basic plan to the crew to see what's working so far and what's not
- Finalise plan
- Go on expedition and enjoy
- Do housekeeping ie. balance budget, return borrowed equipment, etc..
- Review the event
- Timeline of event planning depends on the location and skills required for the expedition
 - A cycling trip around Ireland could be planned in a number of weeks
 - A hike in the Swiss Alps would need several months of planning and training

Potential Expeditions:

Island Hopping by Kayak, Ardmore, County Galway. Skip along a line of uninhabited islands among the crystal clear waters of Connemara. Empty sandy beaches and a backdrop of the Twelve Bens and Maamturk mountains, to visit MacDara's (the patron saint of the Galway Hooker) Island and church. Stay in one of the many youth hostels or Scout Dens in the Area. Contact local heritage groups to plan a local service project.

Walk the Via Francigena in Italy. Similar to the popular Camino de Santiago, the Via Francigena is a pilgrimage route, but it leads from Canterbury to Rome. Your crew to choose to walk a section of it along the route through France, Switzerland, or Italy. You can follow the historic route and meet up with Rovers along the way. Also, look at how you can incorporate a service element.

DO

Suggested Programme over 10 months for a Sailing Expedition:
Going off of two meetings a month

- September Meeting 1: Inspiration! What do you want to do bounce ideas around the crew. ie. Sea Scouts look cool on their boats, we should go on a boat!
- September Meeting 2: Feasibility - is it possible to do a sailing expedition on the Shannon. Consider doing a partnered event with a Sea Scout Rover Crew. Source equipment, ie, sailing boats. What training will you need to go on the expedition. Will you need to fundraise for it
- October Meeting 1: Divide roles among the crew, who's planning what
- October Meeting 2: Find a Rover Seas Crew. Book/ organise training for the crew

- November Meeting 1: Basic Water Safety Training
- November Meeting 2: Where will the starting point be, where will you stop off along the Shannon and where will you finish the expedition
- December: Exams, work parties and Christmas. Get personal gear for Christmas! Hang out with the Rover Seas Crew. Rover event fundraiser ie, table quiz, bag packing
- January Meeting 1: Rough budgets, update on things such as menu, equipment needed and route
- January Meeting 2: Collect deposits. Consider what sort of service project you can incorporate
- February Meeting 1: Navigation Training
- February Meeting 2: Recce
- March Meeting 1: Power Boat weekend on the water
- March Meeting 2: View sailboats that are being rented, with the Rover Seas Crew
- April Meeting 1: Finalise all plans, menu, equipment, route, numbers, service element, make sure you have transport to and from expedition (by car or public transport?)
- April Meeting 2: Contingency Plan! Know where your nearest hospitals/clinics are, have peoples emergency contacts, have up to date safety equipment, know everyones limits!
- May Meeting 1: First Aid Training!
- May Meeting 2: Check your personal gear, do you have everything you need? Buy food for event, borrow/buy equipment that is needed
- June Weekend 1: D-Day! Enjoy yourself!
- June Meeting 2: Review event, what went well, what didn't go so well. Tell everyone who didn't go how much craic they missed out on

Barriers and Solutions:

Barrier to this event: Rover not being able to swim/ not comfortable in the water

Solutions: Go to a local pool with the life jacket/ buoyancy aid they would be wearing, get them in the water moving around with the aid. Build confidence in the person in the water, until they would feel comfortable on the trip

Steps to solve:

1. Put on life Jacket
2. Get in water
3. Paddle about
4. Repeat until desired result is achieved

Barrier: Finances, it can be expensive to plan expeditions, especially when renting large equipment is needed

Solutions: Fundraise for the expedition, such as tablequiz, sponsored cycle, and bag packing.

Barrier: Group leader disapproves of the event, permission from the group leader is needed on events that last more than 3 nights (I think it's 3 nights)

Solutions: Explain the situation and plan to the group leader

Shorten the length of the expedition (not desirable)

Have the Rover Seas Crew do a presentation at a group council, explaining that the expedition would be safe

Call in a outside water safety officer to assess the expedition plan (Have a vote of no confidence in the group leader if none of the above work)

Steps:

1. Talk to group leader
2. Have Rover Seas Crew talk to group leader (if 1 doesn't work)
3. Call in outsider (if 2 doesn't work)

Role of Rover Scouts



Participation

- Participate in events planned your Rover Crew
- Help organiser specific aspects
- Ensure your involvement helps develop you and your skill set
- Focus on how participation can help you achieve your Rover Challenge and Chief Scout Award, and make progress in the SPICES



Leadership

- Decide on a time line for planning, organising and carrying out the activity.
- Verify the plan in detail: route, equipment, menu, transport, accommodation etc.
- Assign roles to each member
- Suggest programme areas that will be covered by this activity
- Each Scout participating needs to use the relevant Scouting Ireland Activity Consent & Medical Advice Forms

Role of Rover Advisor

- Sounding board (idea bouncer, keeping your ideas grounded and realistic)
- Transport
- Facilitator and helping hand
- Credit card for renting things (ie Dublin Bikes)
- Fun and chill person

Supports the National Centres can offer your Crew

- A network of campsites across Ireland, geared towards supporting scouting
- Section appropriate activities on site (different skill levels for different sections)
- Rover Areas (like the Adirondack Shelters in Larch Hill, They're cheaper to rent for Rover and Venture Crews)
- Rover only weekends
 - Adventure skill weekends (for beginning and experienced Rovers, peer learning)
- Funding systems that work for smaller groups of 3-4 (pay by person)
- Public transport to centres/ Shuttle bus service possibly run by the centre (run on a bookable system maybe?)

Campsite/Activity Centres: goo.gl/DYpgYK

This directory has info on all Scouting Ireland campsites, camp fees, activities that they offer, as well as providing directions to the campsite.

Review

Questions to consider:

Group Review

- What was learned?
- How did you approach the activity?
- What would you do differently?
- Was the preparation sufficient? How could you have prepared differently?
- Did it help develop a team spirit?
- What is the next challenge you can take on?

Individual

- What did I get out of this activity?
- What was my role? Did I fulfil it well?
- What will I do next?

SPICES

- How did the activity help you advance in the physical and intellectual areas?
- How did your abilities and the abilities of others feature in the activity and preparation?
- Did you consider the risks involved in the activity, and ways of mitigating them?
- Did I help create a realistic programme to prepare for the expedition?
- The expedition was a challenge for everyone involved?

Review

Physical

- I can identify when my body is working well and when it isn't.
- I have the good judgment to get help when I need it.
- I understand that society is richer because of physical difference.
- Before I make important lifestyle choices, I will inform myself of all the risks/benefits involved.
- I recognise and understand the impact of my choices on myself and others.
- I recognise and understand the impact of physical abuse on myself and others.

Intellectual

- I can assess situations, identify resources, make an informed choice, form my own opinions.
- I can recognise the best possible solution to a given situation.
- I am responsible for my own learning.
- I can incorporate the learning styles of others into all aspects of my life.
- I can use my capacity for imagination & ideas, and my ability to be innovative and creative.
- I can make decisions, execute and review a project and accept responsibility for the outcomes.
- I understand how teams work and I strive to get the best from all members.