

VENTURE SCOUT ADVENTURES

SELECTION OF PROGRAMME ADVENTURES



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Adventure Swap



This adventure is a bit like a magical mystery tour.

This is how it works - a number of venture units in an area (a County perhaps) agree to take part. The adventure is run over a weekend in a known location.

Each venture unit has to plan an adventure that starts at the same place and end at the same place. All the items are planned out, route card, instructions, incidents, tasks, clues etc. Then all details are put into an envelope and you arrive at the start location ready to go.

All envelopes are put into a pile and you chose one (not your own) and that is your adventure for the weekend. At the end of the adventure all the units are together again and you discover who planned your adventure.

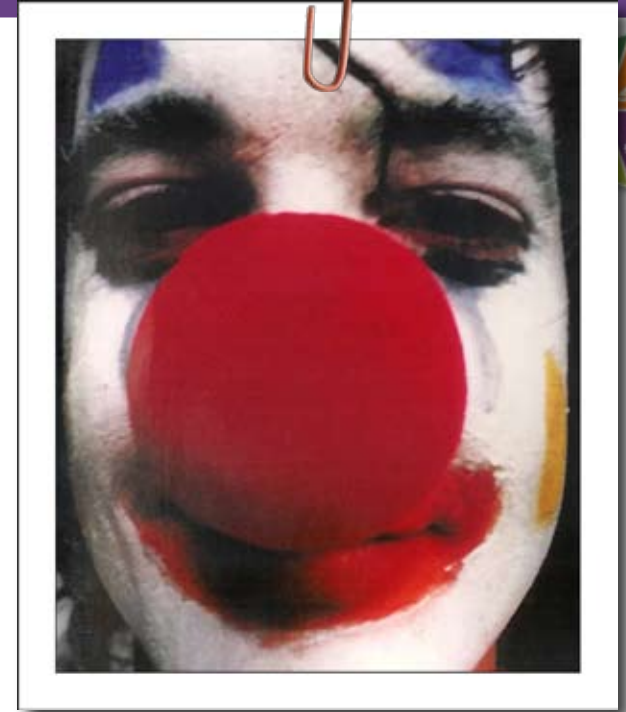
So, when you are planning the adventure you need to ask, do you make it really hard or easy? It's a balancing act and they can get their own back on you at the end!

Things you need to learn

- To be prepared
- Brush up on your Scouting Skills
- Pioneering and lashing skills
- Lightweight trekking
- Observation
- Teamwork
- Creativity and adaptability



Art Camp



Things you need to learn

- How to let yourself go and be creative
- How to paint
- How to play
- How to perform and act
- How to put on make up and face paint
- How to do some circus tricks
- How to carve and sculpt

It's all fun and enjoyment with an art based theme.

So, you organise a camp in the usual way but the programme is all about art. So, you can do some painting, or carve and make a totem pole or a sculpture of some kind. Or you can all train as street performers or circus acts and put on a show.

Photography, dance, sketching, pottery, crafts - there are loads of disciplines to explore.

You will probably need some help, so you will need to seek out these experts and ask them to come along. You can also rely upon your own members, let your creativity go wild.

This is not an adventure to have every weekend but one worthy of exploration within your programme and an opportunity to discover some latent talent within the unit.



On the Beach

Things you need to learn

- How to put on suntan lotion
- How to get sand out of your sandwiches
- How to build sand castles
- How to use the buddy system when swimming
- How to fish
- How to set up a bar-b-que and plank a fish
- How to use a snorkel

Sun's up - let's head to the beach!

A day on the beach, reliving your childhood. Get your bucket and spade and your net for catching small fish and crabs, sun tan lotions, towels and swimming gear and don't forget the sambo's and flasks.

Organise, swimming races, collecting shells and crabs, sand castle building contest, beach volley ball contest or just sitting in the sun chilling!

Internet Link



VENTURESCOUTS



Blacksmithing - Knife making

If you have taken up the challenge of any of the backwoods adventure skills you will realise the value of having a good knife as a tool in the backwoods.

Most people will use a folding swiss army type knife, but if you explore the subject further you will see how experts such as Ray Mears prefer and recommend a knife such as the Nordic or Scandinavian version.

Special pre make kits are available. These kits have all the components for you to make your knife and require a minimum of skill to put together. You can also make a knife using a discarded circular saw blade or for the trully ambitious you could make one from scratch, from an old metal file. The latter requires blacksmithing skills and a forge.

So, many options are possible. The use of a forge is not as way out as it might seem. Many towns have metal workers who use a forge in conjunction with welders to make up gates etc. So, an opportunity for a real cultural experience is awaiting you. There are also blacksmithing classes run in some technical colleges around the country.

I would suggest starting with the kit or metal grinder and an old saw blade and progress from there.



Things you need to learn

- How to work metal and leather
- How to sharpen a knife
- How to take care of a knife
- The rules for using a knife safely
- How to sew

Internet Link 1

Internet Link 2

Challenge League

The football league, fantasy football and now the Challenge League.

You need a number of Venture units to come together or sign up. As a member you get to take part and design challenges for others.

A series of challenges are designed and agreed. A league is created, like a football league, all venture units 'play' each other home and away and points are won and a league table created.

You need trophies and medals, so maybe a membership or sign up fee to fund these.

We are not talking a football league or anything that is already known. For example it could be a pioneering challenge against the clock, first to build a 10 minute tower, it could be an orienteering or geocaching challenge. The idea is all participants design the challenges before it starts so there is time to practice and become expert.



Things you need to learn

- All sorts of stuff depending on the expertise required.
- Brush up on Scouting Skills
- Refine the team management skills
- Teamwork
- Get fit and ready for action
- How to hold the trophy above your head



Charity Challenge

Charity events of all kinds are advertised in our communities and are worthy causes that a venture unit could support.

The charity events can range from a simple charity walk to an international building project. All involve seeking sponsorship and some also involve paying your own way to participate.

The choice to take part should be considered carefully, are you up to the challenge?, can you raise the funds?. It will involve time in preparation as well as participation.

Internet Link

Things you need to learn

- What you are expected to do to participate in the challenge
- The skills required to complete the challenge
- How to be fit
- How to collect money

Deep Sea Fishing

Fishing can be a nice gentle sport with fly rod or casting rods from a river bank or harbour wall, but if you want the real excitement of the big catch - then what you need is deep sea fishing.

The best option is to find a service provider and book a trip for a day or a few hours. They provide the boat and the gear. Then its out to sea in search of your first big catch....watch out for JAWS!!

Most of the big fish are returned to the sea, but capture it on film first. Some of the smaller fish can be bought ashore perhaps for a beach bar-b-que later.

Internet Link 1



Things you need to learn

- How to use a fishing rod
- How to bait a hook
- How to fish
- How to put on a buoyancy jacket
- Water safety
- How to move about on boats



Dog Sledding

Dog Sledding, it is not as mad as it seems. There are two options. You can do it in snow...the real thing really or you can do it in Ireland. Yes, you can do dog sledding in Ireland. Its not in the snow, but on forestry tracks and it is well organised as a sport - dog sledding racing.

Of course you want to do it in the snow that is where the adventure is. So, onto the internet and suss it out. This could be a replacement for your summer expedition, do it instead in the winter. The nordic countries have many opportunities listed on websites or if you are truly driven to partake in a real adventure why not check out the Boy Scout of America high adventure camps - Missouri Trail in winter.

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2

Things you need to learn

- How to handle dogs
- How to rig up a sled
- How to control the sled
- How to pack a sled
- What to wear in cold conditions
- Map reading
- Snow survival skills
- How to use snowshoes



Fun,

wide and whacky

Things you need to learn

- How to dress up
- How to build go carts
- How to have a laugh
- How to catch a pig
- How to throw a lasso
- How to make a shaving cream pie
- How to make water and flour bombs
- How to clean up after yourself!

Internet link 1
Internet link 2
Internet link 3



Let's have some fun. Everything is on the table from the whacky races to chasing pigs.

While its all fun, a bit of organisation will not go astray and helps to keep some sort of control on the activity.

You might like to set up a rodeo or a whacky races for example or weird Olympics that includes all sorts of stuff.. pie fighting, greasy pole, lifting peas with a straw.. you name it and its a good idea.

It's nice to run it in a place where showers and changing rooms are available as you will get mucky and messy.



Get out of that - evade and capture

This adventure is all about a wide game. Think The Great Escape film or similar chase type theme movies, you have to escape, then travel through 'enemy' territory and reach the border and be rescued.

The game will involve escapees and guards that are hunting you down. If you have a small number in your Venture Unit you might want to link up with another section perhaps or another Venture Unit..have you every tried to escape from a Pack of Cub Scouts...its not easy.

If you twin with another section the Venture Unit should run a wide game for that section in return at another time.

So, lots of fun to be had, it can be as simple or complex as you like and can run for a few hours or over a weekend.

use the basic idea and fill it up with all your wide and wacky ideas and concepts.

Things you need to learn

- Tracking skills
- Stalking skills
- How to move quickly on rough terrain
- Nature navigation - stars and nature indicators
- Signalling
- Map reading
- How to make a compass
- Disguise and make up

Internet Link 1 Internet Link 2



Hammock and Tarp Camping



Things you need to learn

- How to tie a few knots
- How to set up a hammock and tarp
- The Leave No trace principles and practice
- How to travel light
- How to cook on a stove
- Map and compass skills

Internet Link 1

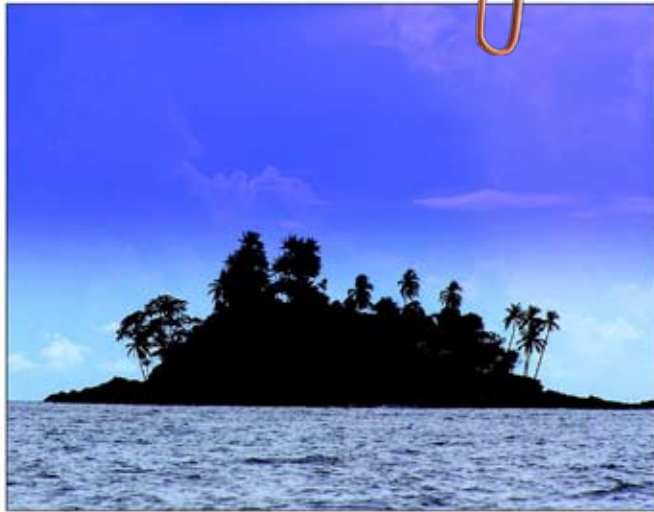
Internet Link 2

With the advent, in recent years, of backwoods and survival trek programmes hammock and tarp camping has become as popular as a light weight trekking option.

After a hard days walking or trekking the hammock is a comfortable alternative to a hard ground bed in a tent. It is also like bivouacking as the tarp is a cover rather than a closed in tent. You might say it is a closer to nature experience.

You can buy or make your own hammocks but the real skill that needs to be learnt is how to erect your hammock so you don't have any nasty surprises in the night as your knots become undone or snap.

Finding the right location is also important and you will need to plan your adventure so you arrive at suitable hammocking locations each night.



Island Survival



Instruction....

Your Group have just survived a ship wreck and have drifted on a makeshift raft for a number of days and have now landed on the beach of a tropical island.

You are unlikely to be rescued for sometime and have to survive on what you have and can find on the island till help arrives.....

Things you need to learn

- How to build a shelter
- How to find water
- How to swim
- How to cook food
- How to signal for help
- How to build a raft
- How to make a survival kit

This adventure is all about backwoods skills. It is very easy to go down to the local wood and survive the night but what if you did have to survive on an island for a longer period of time.

So, first thing first, you need to find a location, and seek permission to run your adventure on it. There are a large number of islands of our coasts and in the lakes around Ireland. However, there maybe smaller islands (like small cannogs) in smaller lakes that could also be used.

Then it needs to be planned, gear list drawn up and transport arranged.

This is a good adventure to link with the backwoods adventure skills badges.

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2



Jamboree - participant and staff opportunities

At some stage in every Scout's Scouting career they should attend a jamboree.

There is always a jamboree happening somewhere in the world every year, so it could be your annual expedition.

The pinnacle of jamborees is the World Scout Jamboree - this is held every four years. Places are limited (as every country wants to take part) and it can be expensive to attend. While the opportunities are enormous and it will be a life remembered experience, it is also possible to have a similar experience at a smaller jamboree.

The unique feature of a jamboree is the international experience, meeting and sharing activities with Scouts from a host of different countries.

You can also attend a jamboree as a staff member, helping to run services and bases. This is often a good way to meet Venture Scouts as you will be working directly together. It is often easier to get a place as staff member, if there are not many participant places.

Things you need to learn

- Brush up on your Scout Skills
- How to say hello in a few languages
- Be able to sing a few Irish songs
- Be able to do a few Irish dances
- Team work
- How to run a programme base

Internet Link 1



Kite Surfing

Flying a kite is for kids !!! But have you tried flying a power kite, its a totally different experience. Power kites use hydrofoil wings and can capture the wind very effectively. The efficiency of these kite provide the power that can be harnessed to drag the 'kiter' along the ground.

The experienced 'kiter' can use the power and lift provided by the kite to jump and do tricks. Beginners can do 'scudding' by allowing themselves to be pulled along a beach - like water skiing, or by using a trolley. The trolley is like a skate board.

Kite surfing is popular with wind surfers on water as it provides the power to pull the surfer through the waves.

A number of providers have introductory day activity packages if you want to have a tryout first before diving head long into a new sport.

Things you need to learn

- How to fly and control a kite
- How to rig a kite
- All about protective equipment and safety
- How to jump and scud on sand
- How to collapse a kit.

Internet Link 1



Long Distance Trek

A journey of discovery starts with the first step. There are loads of long distance trails available to explore, some new and some ancient routes.

A long distance trek adventure is an adventure that spans a number of days. Your mode of transport will usually be by foot but it equally could be by bike, boat, horse, ski. It is a challenge.

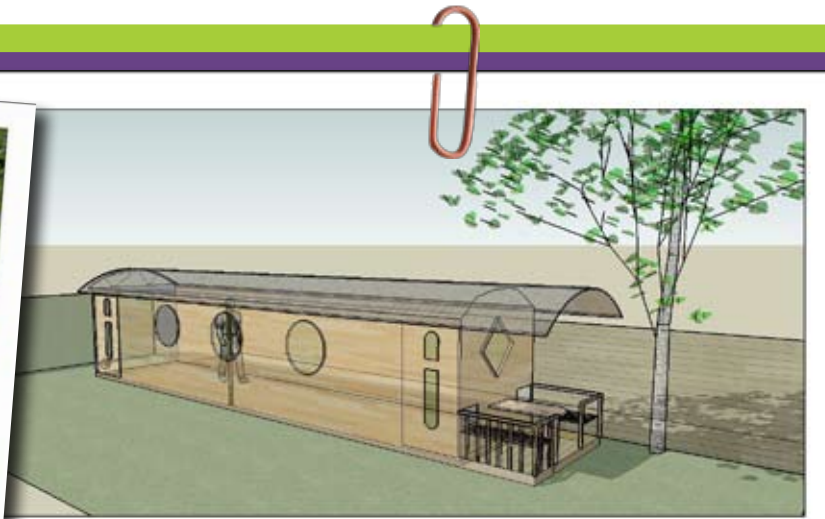
You will need to carry all of your equipment with you as you go so lightweight camping, one stove cooking and navigation skills need to be considered.

Start by exploring trails in Ireland and then trails abroad. Visit the BBC 2 website, they have featured many trails on their Coast programme and old walking routes programmes.

Things you need to learn

- How to hike and trek over difficult terrain
- How to backpack
- All about lightweight equipment
- Map and compass skills
- Photography
- Teamwork
- Specialist skills - sailing, horse riding, skiing

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2
Internet Link 3



Make or construct a hut or shed

Things you need to learn

- Some woodwork skills
- Design a shed
- How to build a shed
- How to use tool safely
- Some painting skills

Internet Link

So where do you go to chill!!!

Wouldn't it be nice to have a venture Scout hut or shed that was all yours and you could use to meet, chill out and have a laugh in?

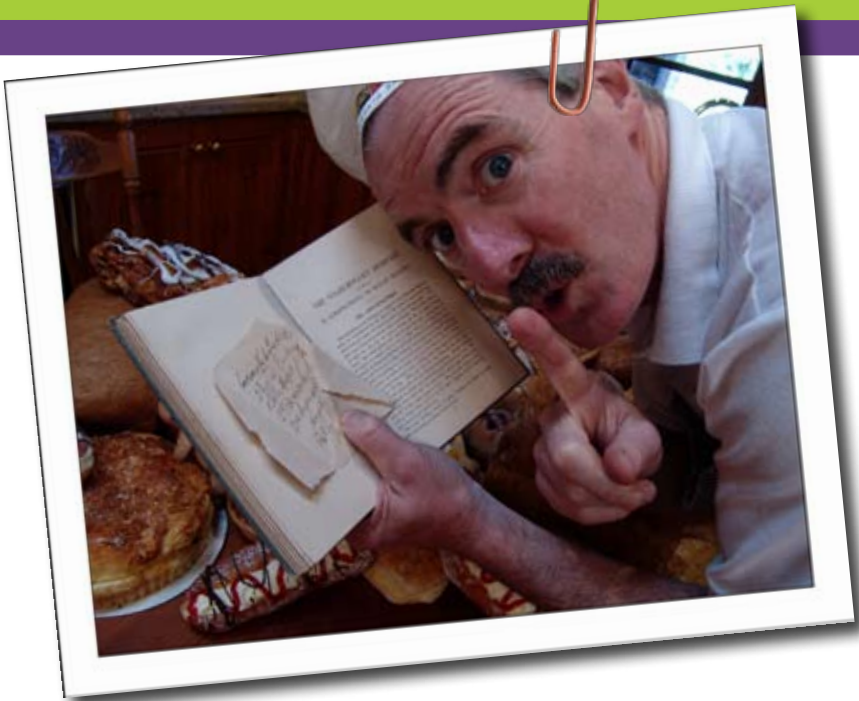
Well you can. What you need is a place to put it. A kind parent might be able to give you a corner in a large garden. Maybe a disused garage, or perhaps there is some space available around the Scout Hall or local campsite.

You could also rent some space as an allotment plot....plant some veg, and erect a small shed there for instance. So, firstly get a space.

Now its down to design, layout and your imagination to create your own space.



VENTURESCOUTS



Master Chef



Right, you can all boil an egg and make spaghetti bolognese but can you be a master chef?

We are not talking about a bangers and mash meal but some real classy stuff. You might need some cooking classes for a start. Then refine your skills using a camp location, open fire and cardboard box ovens.

Then its down to business, getting the menu and ingredients together and setting out to create your feast.

It will call for refined dining, so silver cutlery to go with the enamel and plastic plates and of course you have to dress up for dinner.

Invite a special guest to enjoy your company and judge the results.



Things you need to learn

- How to cook all sorts of stuff really well
- How to put a menu together
- How to bake
- How to serve food
- Nutritional value of food
- How to shop for quality food
- How to operate a budget
- How to sharpen knives

Internet link 1
Internet link 2
Internet link 3



Meitheal - Mountain Trail, Environmental



Meitheal is an old Irish name for a group of people who come together to help each other. In farming communities it was very common at harvest time when neighbouring farmers would come together and work for each other in turn. In short.. many hands make light work.

So, this adventure is all about lending a hand and service to others.

Mountain Meitheal is an organisation that lay and maintain trails across the mountains to prevent erosion of the landscape. Larch Hill and many of our campsites also have meitheal services where you can offer your help and service to the association.

Your own Group may need some work done around your own hall or perhaps there are opportunities in your local community.

In a lot of cases it is pure manpower - lifting and carrying. If however you have some building skills then these can be employed in more meaningful projects.

Things you need to learn

- How to use tools
- How to work as a team
- How to layout a trail
- Woodworking skills
- Map reading and navigation
- Work plans and designs

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2



Mountain Bike Trail

Dust off your old bike and lets hit the trail. Firstly, you will need a mountain bike and protective gear.

Then you need to find a mountain bike trail in your locality. There are many laid on trails in forestry and woodland areas. Your local tourist board should be able to point you in the right direction or perhaps a mountain bike club.

You can't just take off to the nearest forest or track. Check with the local forester to see if it is permissible to use tracks and trails for mountain biking.

Things you need to learn

- How to ride a bike in rough terrain.
- How to fix a puncture
- How to do minor repairs
- All about protective gear
- All about accident prevention

Internet link 1

Internet link 2



Movie making - Horror, YouTube



Right !!! How many movies have you seen in your lifetime? How many programmes have you watched on the TV. How many snippets have you watched on YouTube.? Thousands? So, already you know a bit about movie making.

You are going to need all the equipment - video camera, sound, a few reflectors and a light perhaps. A computer for editing and uploading. Or you can do it on the cheap with a mobile phone or small digital camera.

There are loads of jobs to do, so everyone has a role. Director, camera person, sound, lights, makeup etc, and thats all those behind the camera. In front we need actors, sets, stunts etc.

As you can see to make a really good movie worthy of the talents of your venture unit it will take a few weeks to organise - well before we put a single frame on film.

So,,,,,quite on the set, sound, roll cameras, **ACTION!!!**

Things you need to learn

- How to make up a story board
- How to direct the 'players'
- How to use a camera
- How to be creative
- How to use computers
- How to write a script
- How to do makeup
- How to do stunts and special effects

Internet link 1
Internet link 2



Munro Peak Challenge



Climbing a Munrothis is a major challenge.

The Munro's are all the peaks in Ireland and the UK (mostly Scotland) over 914.4 metres (3,000 ft). According to the list there are 283 and a further 227 subsidiary tops, so loads to choose from. In Ireland, there are also a large number of peaks over 2000 feet that might be easier to attain.

Things you need to learn

- How to navigate on the hills
- How to hike
- How to be prepared
- To be fit
- How to plan a route

Internet Link 1

The four peak challenge is also a serious undertaking, namely - Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Carrantouhill and Scafell Pike. usually the challenge is completed over a weekend in the shortest time possible. You could also take the easier option and try to complete them over a year and leave all that 'hero' stuff to the real enthusiasts.

So essentially this adventure is all about 'bagging' mountain peaks above 3000 ft. It can be a weekend, an expedition or a year long challenge. You design it to suit your capabilities and desires.

Don't forget the Hillwalking Adventure Skills Badges.



Murder, Mystery and Suspence

Things you need to learn

- How to check out a scene
- How to break codes
- How to read a map
- How to make false blood and wounds
- How to be observant
- How to dress up
- Logical thinking

internet link 1
Internet link 2

You have read all the books and seen all the films and tv programmes, now its time for you to solve the real mystery or murder.

You've guessed it !! its a murder hunt, a treasure hunt, a ghost hunt, its something to be solved.

You need someone to set it up for you, may be a linked activity with another venture unit or section in you're own Group, with a return favour later. If you do it within your own unit then you need all the 'players' and the detective team, so unless you have a large unit it might be difficult to organise... best option is the twinning arrangement.

It is generally better fun if you get into character... CSI, or Sherlock Holmes and of course all the suspects and the poor victim.

It needs a bit of planning and don't forget the props, clues etc.



National Venture Challenge

The National venture Challenge is an event open to all venture Scouts. As well as being a physical, mental and personal challenge, the aim of the challenge is to explore and discover our own culture and the culture of other countries.

The basic idea is

- Five days on the road
- Carrying out challenges
- Work together as a team
- Walk 100 Km in total
- Carry all your belongings on your back
- Survive on a limited budget

Once you sign up you will participate in a comprehensive training programme before you embark on the Challenge activity.

Things you need to learn

- How to work as a team
- How to plan and use a budget
- How to travel light
- How to complete your personal challenges
- How to write up and submit a project
- How to navigate



One Sheet Boat Challenge

One sheet of plywood, some basic tools, fiber glass tape and resin and the challenge is to make a boat.

This is a fun based project that also allows the unit to learn a lot about boats and basic boat handling.

The idea is to make a boat from one sheet of 8X4 plywood. The links below to various websites will reveal the approach and building plans. The result of your efforts will be a small one -man or two man boat (depending on design). The designs are for essential fun boats on calm water. However, the project will enable your unit to gain a good insight into boat design and boatmanship and perhaps lead on to more ambitious projects in the future.

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2
Internet Link 3

Things you need to learn

- Some basic woodwork skills
- How to use tools
- How to row a boat
- How to read plans
- All about boatmanship
- All about water safety
- How to sail a boat



Paddy Whackery



A celebration of Irishness! Paddy Whackery an adventure in what's good and wacky about being Irish..

You will need some ideas so put on your thinking caps.

Some ideas to get you rolling. Welley throwing, bog swimming, tea in a milk bottle or glass jar, home made brown bread, poc fada, donkey racing, cutting turf, making and playing bodhran's, Brigid crosses, story telling, sing songs, milking cows, old street games.

You could call it an exploration of our culture..what's really weird about the Irish!

Things you need to learn

- All about our heritage
- All about our culture
- How to use a hurley
- How to cut turf
- How to make a Brigid cross
- A few Irish songs and dances

Internet link 1

Internet link 2

Internet link 3



Rafting Adventure - camping on a raft or boat

Things you need to learn

- How to make a raft
- How to steer a raft
- How to wear a buoyancy aid
- Water safety skills
- How to tie knots and lashings

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2

Do you know the story about Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer - how they build a raft with a shelter and a sail and set off on the Mississippi on one big adventure. In the 1970 there was the Kontiki Expedition across the Pacific when adventurers sought to prove that it was possible to cross the Pacific on a raft. There was also the adventures of Tom Severn - the Brendan Voyage - in a currach across the Atlantic to prove that Christopher Columbus was not the first to discover America.

Well, this adventure is a bit like those but on a smaller scale....not on the sea but maybe a lake. You might have build rafts in the Scout section that you used for a day or for a raft race. This adventure requires something a whole lot bigger. It needs to have space for a tent or shelter as you will live on it.

You could also take the easy way out and hire a barge and explore our inland waterways but where is the romance in that.

Nobody had done it before...will your unit be the first!!!. The challenge has been laid on your table.



Re - enactment Viking - Roman - Celts

Looking for an excuse to dress up? have you considered re - enactment?

Things you need to learn

- Crafts of your chosen period in history
- Skills of your chosen period in history
- How to make the costumes
- How to make the equipment
- History of the period
- How to test a skill

The guys in the unit will love the idea of dressing up as Celtic warriors and Roman legionnaires with all the shields, swords and spears. The ladies also have options to be the lady of the Manor, Lady of the Champion or crafts person or indeed Celtic warriors.

The idea is that the Venture Unit become expert on a particular period, learn the crafts, culture and costumes then offer your services to other Sections, County camps and events to run bases and workshops.

This is a two fold adventure - learning how to be an expert and passing on the skills and knowledge to others in a playful fun way.

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2

This is a serious endeavour, it is important that items are authentic and skills etc. are shown in traditional manner reflecting the time period. it is a lot more than dressing up really.

Rockclimbing

Rockclimbing - it's not as hard as it looks !. It's all about working your way up a rock face. It is sort of a physical puzzle. Ropes and the equipment used have been carefully designed and tested and if used properly will ensure you have a safe carefree climbing experience.

Sure it will be scary, particularly when you're in an exposed situation on a rock face, but with a calm and clear headed approach you should be able to climb most of the moderately difficult climbs in your local area.

You will need expert assistance and tuition. This can be obtained in a local mountaineering club perhaps or via an adventure centre. Don't attempt to climb without expert assistance.

Knowing the knots and spending some time stretching and keeping fit will help the ease at which you climb. Indoor climbing wall and towers bear no relationship to climbing on real rock. In a real rock situation there are no nice holds available in the right places and the exposure to wind and height add an extra dimension to the experience.



Things you need to learn

- How to use climbing ropes
- How to use safety equipment
- How to move on the rock
- How to be safety aware
- How to tie knots
- How to keep fit

Internet Link 1



Okay, so here is the basic idea - let's go on a roller coaster ride. Simple, find a suitable adventure park, organise a trip and go on the ride....great fun!!!

So, here's the cool idea....what if your expedition was built around roller coaster rides. You do a bit of research and find out the best roller coaster rides around Europe. Then you pick, say the best seven or ten depending on time available. The object of the expedition to visit them all by the shortest route possible.

Think inter-rail tickets, Scout campsites and hostels, timetables, value for money, grading system, twinning with local venture Group for shared experience and don't forget the sick bag collection!!

Rollercoaster Rides

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2

Things you need to learn

- All about train time tables
- Fear and how to control it
- Scout campsites and hostels in Europe



Sailing - Cruise

This is a sailing adventure over a number of days. There are a number of options - if you are Sea Scouts then you will have the experience and wherewithal to make this adventure happen with relative ease and some detailed planning. You will need 'a bigger boat' of course, but all your sailing skills will ultimately be honed to enable such an adventure to happen for you.

If however, you are land based Scouts then you need to use a service provider of some sort or talk very nicely to your Sea Scout friends. It is possible to hire a cruise sailing craft with a skipper who will take you on a sailing adventure, it will be costly.

You could also contact our National Water Activities Centre in Killaloe who could arrange an adventure for you..not on the high seas but equally as challenging using the centre equipment and expertise. A number of other campsites around Europe have similar opportunities.

So, first things first, you need to learn how to sail and acquire boatmanship skills. The water based adventure skills will provide guidance as to the standards required. Your County may also have skills courses available in your area also.

Things you need to learn

- How to sail
- Boatmanship skills
- How to work as a team
- How to navigate at sea
- How to maintain a boat
- How to do running repairs

Internet Link 1

Build and Sleep in a Snow Hole



Internet link 1
Internet link 2

So, we can all camp out in a tent but how many of us have every slept in an igloo or snowhole...not many I expect...so it is automatically on the list of 100 things to do before I leave the Scouts.

Firstly, a location needs to be found where an igloo can be built. It is likely to be overseas, so maybe an expedition in the winter instead of the summer perhaps.

Then, you need to learn how to build an igloo and how to live in one overnight or over a few nights. You need to get to the location, hiking on snow shoes or skis or dog sleds. It's already sounding like a great adventure.

Things you need to learn

- How to build an igloo
- What clothes to wear
- How to use an ice saw
- Where to find the right snow conditions
- How to live in an igloo



Build a trebuchet

Siege warfare - what do you know about it?

All sorts of weird and wonderful machines were built to enable projectiles to be thrown at the walls of castles. So, first off will be a visit to the internet. There you will discover that a unique community of people are experimenting with these age old machines and having great fun.

You too can join in on the fun.

First things first, you need to design and build your trebuchet. We are talking big stuff here, not the bamboo ballista's you made for the Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts. So, you will need timber, weights, ropes and ammo. Then there is the testing and tweaking and ensuring that it throws your ammo far enough.

Then, when you have it all together you need targets and a war (challenge another venture unit)



Things you need to learn

- How a trebuchet works
- How to build a trebuchet
- Safety precautions to be observed
- How to test and tweak the design
- How to make flour and water bombs

Internet link

Tree Platform - Pioneering



Things you need to learn

- Pioneering skills
- Construction skills
- Planning
- Woodworking skills
- How to use tools safely
- How to lift and carry heavy equipment

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2

Anyone can camp on the ground - how about camping on a tree platform or a pioneering platform. You could have different levels, sleeping on top, dining and kitchen area below.

Tent platform towers are popular on jamborees where ground space is in short supply but you don't have to go on a jamboree to build your own little camping space.

A simple ten minute pioneering tower suitably modified will provide an ideal platform. A tree house design will take some time to build and is better for a long period of time.

As you will be living and sleeping on a platform, take care you don't want any surprises as you roll out of your tent in the morning.

Venturing is about doing things that you don't do in your normal life.. sleeping in a tent up a tree or on a platform.. now that something you don't do every day.





Skiing - Downhill and cross country



Things you need to learn

- How to ski
- What to wear in cold conditions
- Where to ski
- All about ski equipment

Internet Link 1

High in the cool mountain air you get off the chair lift, slip on your skis, pull down your goggles and off you go down the hill.

You can ski in Ireland and the UK on dry slopes or you can head to the snow in the Alps. In recent times flight costs have been low enough to allow skiing to become a real possibility within your programme.

You need to be able to ski, so you will need lessons of some kind. They can be had on the dry slopes in Ireland or as part of your adventure.

Kandersteg is a great location for winter sports adventures and you can design an adventure that includes a variety of activities including skiing.

Twinning with a Venture Unit from France, Switzerland or the Nordic countries will turn your adventure into a true international experience.

Additional specialised insurance will be required for this adventure

Land Yachts



Things you need to learn

- How to sail
- All about protective gear
- How to build a land yacht
- How to build the buggy
- Local weather conditions and locations

Land yachts - sailing on land. The Dutch used to make land yachts to sail on the frozen canals in the 1800's. Land yachts are best used on wide open beaches.

You need to know how to sail as it is exactly the same except the boat is replaced by a buggy. Most land yachts are homemade - so it can be a long term project for the unit. You might need some help or training in metal work to enable you to build the buggy.

The prime aim is to have some fun. So, maybe you could build a simple craft with a cloth sail just to get the idea before you progress to a more expensive rig.

Be careful however, under the right condition these craft can move very fast, so you will need helmets and protective gear.

A bit of research on the internet will yield plans drawings and links to suppliers.

Internet Link 1
Internet Link 2



Kite Surfing

Flying a kite is for kids !!! but have you tried flying a power kite, its a totally different experience. Power kites use hydrofoil wings and can capture the wind very effectively. The efficiency of these kite provide the power that can be harnessed to drag the 'kiter' along the ground.

The experienced 'kiter' can use the power and lift provided by the kite to jump and do tricks. Beginners can do 'scudding' by allowing themselves to be pulled along a beach - like water skiing, or by using a trolley. The trolley is like a skate board.

Kite surfing is popular with wind surfers on water as it provides the power to pull the surfer through the waves.

A number of providers have introductory day activity packages if you want to have a tryout first before diving head long into a new sport.

Things you need to learn

- How to fly and control a kite
- How to rig a kite
- All about protective equipment and safety
- How to jump and scud on sand
- How to collapse a kit.

Internet Link 1

Additional specialised insurance will be required for this adventure