

Zodiac Award FAQs

Who can do the Zodiac Award?

All four Zodiac Awards are available to young people aged 10-25 so suitable for Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Scout Network. They can be started at any qualifying age; however, they are progressive and you must do them in order of Bronze followed by Silver followed by Gold. This recognises and rewards members who are the most nights-away active. The Platinum Award can be done alongside the Gold Award following it. The individual awards do not have to be achieved within one calendar year and can cross into subsequent years and across sections as required until the requirements have been met.

What are the Zodiac Award Challenges?

There is a list of Zodiac Award Challenges that will remain in place for the first three awards and they can be done in any order but they can only be done once each as a qualifying activity. So a participant could choose the easiest challenges to start and leave the more difficult ones to the end, if they wanted to. There is a record card available to track the Zodiac Award Challenges undertaken and this will need to be passed from the Scout Troop to the Explorer Scout Unit to Scout Network.

Why is the Zodiac Award Platinum different?

The Zodiac Award Platinum is intended to encourage and recognise young people who take more of a leading role in the planning and delivery of a peer-led camp allowing them to develop Nights Away leadership skills. It is also intended for Young Leaders (Explorer Scouts) who are actively involved in the delivery of Nights Away experiences for Beaver Scouts, Cub Scout or Scouts and for members of Scout Network who have active leadership appointments with other sections. Where necessary, an adult with a relevant Nights Away Permit should be involved and this doesn't prevent the Young Leader or Scout Network member with an active leadership appointment from planning or delivering the actual experience. Nights Away Permit holders may also be required to issue Nights Away Event Passports for peer-led camps. You do not need to wait until the Zodiac Award Gold has been achieved to start the Zodiac Award Platinum as it has a different purpose in encouraging leadership skills and both awards could be done together allowing young people to take a leading role in planning and delivering qualifying Nights Away experiences.

Can the Zodiac Awards be done whilst face-to-face Scouting is suspended?

Yes, we have identified a number of the existing challenges that can be done whilst Scouting at home and we have added in a few others too in case these have already been attempted for previous awards. However as a Night Away is more than just a sleepover, all challenges need to be accompanied by at least one activity. We have suggested a list of activities but leaders can recommend and agree others.

It is essential that government guidance is followed while doing any Scouting at home. Make sure you keep yourself and others safe while taking on your challenges.