



Youth Involvement

Youth Voice Blethers

scouts.org.uk/join
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Contents

Youth Voice Blether	4
Introduction to a Youth Voice Blether	
Aims and Objectives	
How to run your own	5
Topics & Themes	
6 Key things for your Youth Involvement Action Plan	
Saftey & Safeguarding	6
Resources & Support	7
Useful Links	9
Draft Group Agreement	9

Youth Voice Blether

Introduction to a Youth Voice Blether

Scouts Scotland Youth Voice Blether is a planned monthly online Zoom meeting where our youth membership can impact our work and strategy surrounding our three pillars of People, Perception and Programme.

Youth Voice Blethers are aimed at the senior sections of Explorers and Network, but we hope to expand to involve all sections in shaping their Scouting journey and encourage Regions and Districts to run their own local Youth Voice Blethers using digital skills and technologies.

Now more than ever it's vitally important that we work with our youth and adult members to support the continuation of Scouting locally and nationally to encourage young people to shape their Scouting journeys and feed in to all levels of Scouting and its development. Our Youth Voice Blethers have been a great way for Young People to influence our current and future online opportunities – such as the “[wellbeing champions](#)” where we'll be creating 10,000 Wellbeing Champions (UK Wide): people who have committed to help tear down the taboo around mental health and do what they can to boost people's wellbeing.

With the ever-changing situation with COVID-19, it's a challenging time for everyone but we at Scouts Scotland are doing our very best to ensure that those across the Scout Movement in Scotland are supported during this unprecedented time. UK Scouting launched the successful [Great Indoors](#) programme to keep Scouting going and Scouts Scotland launched [Scouting at Home](#) with links to the Scottish Thistle Awards and Zodiac Challenges. The UK and Scouts Scotland teams are working hard with and for members to ensure wellbeing is prioritised and that all young people continue to benefit from Scouting, whether that's at home or back to face-to-face meetings.

Aims and Objectives

- Scouting is shaped by young people through their involvement in management, leadership, and decision-making
- The profile of Scouting is of a body shaped by young people
- Every young person should be shaping their experience and developing their leadership potential.

The Scouts Scotland Youth Blethers have found a lot of success in utilising social media to gather young people's opinions on what matters to “them”. We have then utilised an online meeting platform to have wide ranging discussions on these topics which become the theme for that month's Youth Blether. The online Blethers allows Scout Scotland to bring in the relevant Commissioners, leaders and support to work with Young People on issues that are important to them and sound out our membership on what they think our priorities should be.

Youth Voice Blether – “Every young person should be able to shape their Scouting journey and feed into the development of Scouting at all levels”.

How to run your own

You will need.

- An online meeting platform like Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Google Meet
- A « topic » or discussion point
- A way to gather young peoples opinions – microsoft forms, google forms, Instagram polls.
- A way to record and action the young peoples thoughts
- A way to communicate to the wider membership what has been discussed

If you have access to Zoom think about using the following tools or features.

- Breakout rooms supported by facilitators to monitor and promote discussion between participants.
- Polling for yes/no responses to questions.
- Menti to build word clouds or allow in depth response to questions.
- Communicate your actions to young people in an accessible format – Facebook/Instagram

To start why not ask some young people what topics and themes that they want to discuss by using a sign up form which is then promoted locally to the targeted Sections through Leaders or social media. Use these topics and themes to structure your discussion for your first calls. Try to choose one or two topics that can be the focal point of your meeting but give time if possible for any other points generated by the group. We recommend that the meetings last for no longer than an hour and the first 10 minutes are used to set expectations, explain the themes or topics for discussion and introduce the facilitation team. Split the groups into breakout rooms or other calls and use the bulk of the time to discuss, plan and review. Bring the group back together and summarise the main points. You can use Zoom Polls or other platforms to gather the young people's thoughts on what has been discussed.

6 Key things for your Youth Involvement Action Plan

Six steps to create a Youth Involvement action plan. Working with your young people, ideally from a Youth Advisory Group and your District/Regional Commissioner consider these six steps.

1. Think about Scouting in your area to better understand the context you're in.
2. Think about what you've already achieved, the challenges you face and what opportunities are in your local area.
3. Agree on what goals you should set based on the Skills for Life goals, Scouts Scotland Youth Involvement Strategy and your local context.
4. Agree on what actions you should take to help achieve the goals you've set.
5. Communicate and share your plan
6. Review your goals and actions regularly.

Safety & Safeguarding

An online meeting should be treated the same as a face to face meeting. There is specific guidance available on the UK Scouts Website to support you in running an online meeting. Which is linked below and in the resource section.

Digital Platform for Scouts -

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/taking-scouts-online/digital-platforms-for-scouts/>

Staying Safe online –

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/taking-scouts-online/staying-safe-online/>

Top tips –

- **Use Microsoft/Google Forms to collect participant information (For District/Region Groups)**
- **Use compass to check membership status for Network**
- **Contact local Leaders for confirmation of Explorer Scout membership**

It is important to ensure that there are two adults in all online calls. If utilising the breakout room functions on online platforms it is important to ensure that you follow the Yellow Card at all times and the guidance listed by UK Scouting.

Resources & Support

There is support available from Districts, Regions, Scouts Scotland and UK Scouting to support Leaders and members in delivering online Scouting. The information and links below is intended to signpost you to some of these resources. There are some amazing free online tools that you may wish to add into your online meetings. Two examples are explored in a little detail below.

Online tools to increase participation

Kahoot -

- Adds gamefication
- Great for quizzes
- Adds fun to online discussions

Online tools to increase participation

Menti –

- Creates a live word map
- Great for gathering opinions
- Effective at gathering opinions and allows voting.

Kahoot

Kahoot! is a game-based learning platform, used as educational technology in schools and other educational institutions. Its learning games, "Kahoots", are user-generated multiple-choice quizzes that can be accessed via a web browser or the Kahoot app

Points to note -

- Free education and charity licenses - paid versions add extra features and more usability.
- Accessible on Phone/Tablet/Computer and through Apple/Android apps.

The screenshot shows the Kahoot! website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Discover, Kahoots, Reports, Groups, Upgrade now, Create, and a user profile for StevenMac28. The main content area features a purple sidebar with the Scouts logo and the title 'UK Scouts Generic Quiz'. Below the title, it shows 27 favorites, 53 plays, and 349 players. There are 'Play' and 'Edit' buttons, along with share and star icons. The main area displays four quiz questions:

- 1 - Quiz: Which Scout Challenge Award is missing? (20 sec)
- 2 - Quiz: What is this? (20 sec)
- 3 - Quiz: How many centimetres on an OS Explorer map represents 1 kilometre? (20 sec)
- 4 - Puzzle: What order should you do things in if you encounter an injured person? (20 sec)

Mentimeter

Mentimeter is easily accessible wherever your Scouts or Group may be located. Compatible with any screen sharing software such as Zoom, Teams, Google etc. You can also track how many team members are connected to a presentation.

Use Mentimeter to:

- Engage and interact with colleagues using live polls, word clouds, multiple-choice questions and more
- Collect feedback to continually improve, both pre and post a session
- Ensure everybody is heard even in online meetings
- Enable Q&A so that queries and questions can be discussed to avoid misunderstandings
- Collaboratively rank and prioritise questions and initiatives

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 42 27 90

What does Scouts mean to you

 Mentimeter



3



Useful Links

- Youth Link Scotland – [Digital Youth Work Training](#)
- Scouts UK – [Online Platforms](#)
- Scouts UK – [Keeping Safe online](#)
- Scouts UK – [The Great Indoors](#)
- Scouts Scotland – [Scouting at Home](#)
- Scouts Scotland – [Zodiac Award](#)
- Scouts Scotland – [Thistle Award](#)
- Scouts Scotland – [Youth Involvement Action Plan](#)
- Scouts Scotland – [Youth Approved Requirments](#)
- Scout Scotland – [Helping you to deliver Youth Involvement](#)
- Kahoot - <https://kahoot.com/>
- Menti - <https://www.mentimeter.com/>

Draft Group Agreement

