

Cheshire Scouts International

# Explorer Belt 2023



# Explorer Belt Discovery

For prospective adult volunteers

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# What is the Explorer Belt Award?

*The Explorer Belt is a challenge of a lifetime.*

*It is a chance to take part in a **ten day expedition** that brings you a real understanding of a different country, its culture and way of life.*



# The Explorer Belt...

...is a Top Award, achievable by Explorer Scouts or Network members aged 16-25.

Participants of the Explorer Belt are required to carry out their own independent international expedition, planned, delivered and evaluated independently in a small team of peers.

The Award will be complete after a presentation of young people's experiences. This will include a display and demonstration of project work, achieved whilst on expedition.

This is similar to the expectations and requirements of the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**Carol Frain** (Top Awards Commissioner)  
Cheshire Scouts, UK  
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# Cheshire's Explorer Belt project

*This is your chance to join an exciting international contingent.*

*Cheshire Scouts are delivering a **20-month project**, culminating in lots of young people gaining their Explorer Belt Award. In the months leading up to the expedition, participants will take part in a full training and practical skills-based programme.*

*Teams of Explorer Scouts and teams of Network members will develop skills in order to lead their own international expedition.*

*It is expected that participants will take part in sharing their experience with other members of the movement on their return.*



# Cheshire's Explorer Belt project – timeline

- **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021** Application process opens
- **31<sup>st</sup> January 2022** Application process closes
- **February 2022** Selection events
- **March 2022** Launch event
- **April 2022 – July 2023** Training programme
- **Start of August 2023** Expedition
- **September 2023** Project presentations & reunion



## Network membership

- When a Scout turns 18, they can become a Network member
- They also have the opportunity to become an adult leader

### Cheshire's Explorer Belt

If you will be 18+ by the time of the expedition in August 2023, **you must ensure** you are registered or become registered as a Scout Network member.

We can advise you on who can help you to do that locally.

**Ian Turnbull** (Network Commissioner)

Cheshire Scouts, UK

[ian.turnbull@cheshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:ian.turnbull@cheshirescouts.org.uk)

# Explorer Belt Requirements - participants

What you need to know



- 1 Membership:** Be an Explorer Scout aged 16 by 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 or be a Network member not older than 25 by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- 2 Application:** Complete an application form before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022
- 3 Expedition:** Undertake a 10-day expedition as part of a team in August 2023



# Explorer Belt Requirements - participants

What you need to know



- 4 Debrief:** Take part in a debrief of the expedition with your Mentor
- 5 Presentation:** Make a presentation including all elements of your award to your mentor, leadership team, family and other Scouts
- 6 Assessment:** Your expedition, project work and presentation will be assessed by a panel, including your mentor

# Explorer Belt Requirements - participants

## The expedition requirements

Undertake a 10-day expedition as part of a team\* outside of the UK with a minimum travelling time of **50 hours over the 10 days**, by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy.

If aged 16–18 years old, you may only participate in an organised expedition supported by an in-country leadership team, rather than being self-led. The use of public transport is acceptable as part of the travelling time, where opportunities to meet people would otherwise be missed.

*\*Minimum starting number of young people per team is three with the minimum of two per team completing the expedition.*

## Expedition competence

Show that you are competent in the following areas:

- Navigation skills, Expedition cooking, Lightweight camping
- Language
- Fitness
- Proficiency in mode of travel
- Teambuilding
- First Aid (covering First Response as a minimum)



# Explorer Belt Requirements - participants

## The expedition requirements

### Budgeting

Agree the budget before the expedition and record spending throughout the trip.

### Log Book

Keep a logbook of the expedition recording places visited, route taken, project work and personal thoughts

### Projects

- Complete **one major project** selected by the team which is undertaken throughout the expedition
- Complete at least **ten minor projects** which may be chosen by the team, leadership team, peers or a mixture of these



# Explorer Belt Leadership Team

## Core Team



**Graham Proctor**  
DCC Programme

**Project Leader**



**Ian Turnbull**  
ACC Network

**Contingent Leader**  
**Training Leader (N)**



**Amelia Riley**  
ACC Explorers

**Training Leader (E)**



**Carol Frain**  
ACC Top Awards

**Award Advisor**



**Graham Shaw**  
ACC International

**International Advisor**



**Dave Hopley**  
County Commissioner

**Project Advisor**

# Explorer Belt Leadership Team

## Support Team



**John Bennett**  
Safety Advisor

**Safety Advisor**



**Laura Dyer**  
Safeguarding Advisor

**Safeguarding Advisor**



**David Metcalfe**  
ACC Inclusion

**Inclusion Advisor**



**Paul Brown**  
ACC Community Impact

**Award Impact**

# Mentorship Programme

## Cheshire Explorer Belt 2023

Adult Scout volunteers in Cheshire may apply to become an EB23 Mentor. There is capacity for ten Mentors.

**By becoming a Mentor for the 2023 Explorer Belt project, you will be expected to:**

- Have completed all relevant mandatory Scout training and be an active adult volunteer in Cheshire, aged 18+
- Get to know all participants from both contingents
- Attend all pre-expedition events and training programmes
- Liaise and work closely with the Explorer Belt Leadership Team

**All mentors will be allocated two teams (alongside another Mentor) to guide and support. You will be expected to:**

- Ensure teams are motivated to plan and lead their own expedition
- Follow personal progress closely on a regular basis, providing guidance where necessary
- Provide detailed updates on team progress to the Contingent Leader

**As a Mentor to two teams, you will be expected to:**

- Travel to Europe with the EB23 contingents, following your two teams, from a distance, around their route
- Conduct a debrief with your teams in-country (within 24 hours of completion of their expedition)
- Be on the assessment panel during the contingent's final presentations in the UK

# Training programme for participants

## Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

- The first contingent event will take place once every participant has been selected. This will be a formal launch event where we will celebrate those about to embark on the project and will set out some more details about the expedition.
- Explorer Scout participants (those 16 & 17 on expedition) are asked to attend mandatory residential training weekends. The content of these will be centred around the physical skills-based expedition requirements. However, softer skills such as personal budgeting and teambuilding will be a focus.
- Network participants (those 18 - 25 on expedition) will be invited to the residential training weekends, however, these are not mandatory for Network members. Network teams can be assigned Mentors, if appropriate, who can coach teams through the process.
- There will be a variety of social events put on for participants and every member is encouraged to attend to strengthen bonds and friendships across the contingent, leadership and mentorship teams.

# **WANTED: Leaders with skills**

## Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

All participants on the 2023 expedition will be able to gain from leader-led skills-based knowledge sharing. We are looking for adult volunteers from within Cheshire Scouts with specific expedition skills. You don't have to be an EB23 Mentor to offer these skills.

These valuable leaders will work with our Training Leaders in teaching, tutoring and guiding small expedition teams through a programme of practical and soft expedition skills. We are initially looking for competence and thorough knowledge in the following desired areas:

- SEND & Autism awareness**
- Cycling & mountain biking**
- Teamwork & teambuilding**
- Map reading (European)**
- Outdoor first aid**
- Canoeing**

- Personal budgeting**
- Self-reflection**
- Pacing**
- Compact kit packing**
- Hillwalking**
- Physical fitness**

- German, Dutch & French language**
- Personal health & hygiene**
- Expedition food & cooking**
- Mental health awareness**
- Photos, blogs & vlogs**
- Planning & leadership**



# Application process for Mentors

## Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

- Applications open at 19:00 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 and close at 23:59 on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- Mentors should complete the application form thoroughly and accurately. These will be read by the Explorer Belt Leadership Team once submitted.
- The application form will be used as part of the final selection process, but by applying, Mentors will understand that a final decision on who to take will be made after a selection event.
- All Mentors made have valid up-to-date training complete and be an active adult volunteer of Cheshire Scouts.
- It is important to note that we are looking for highly motivated and committed Mentors. These will be adult leaders who are prepared to guide participants **proactively** throughout the project.

# Selection process for Mentors

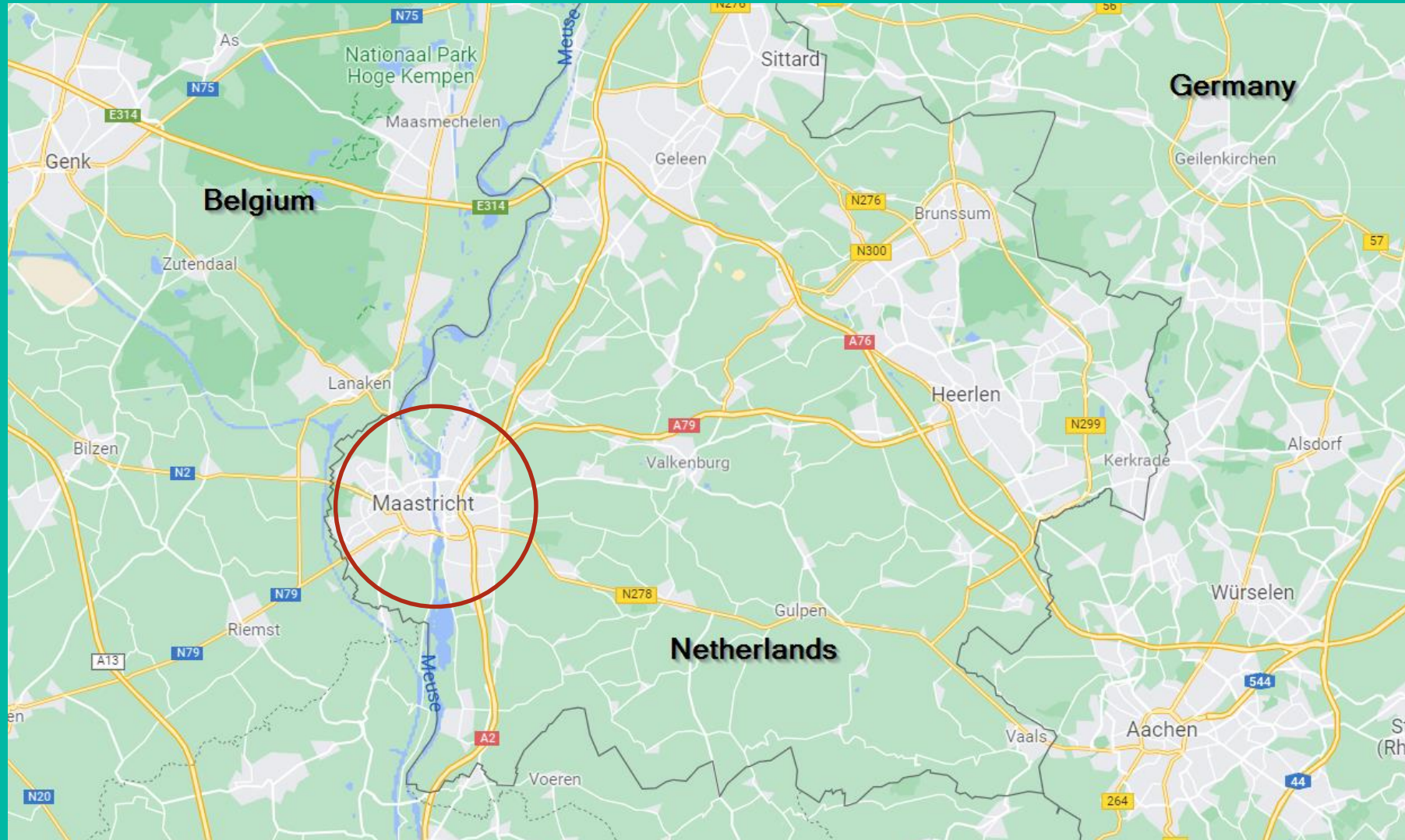
## Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

- Applications close at 23:59 on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. At this time, all written applications will be read by the Explorer Belt Leadership Team and applicants will receive an invitation to attend a County-led selection event.
- The event's focus for Mentors will be to gain an understanding of the full extent of what will be required of them during training and the in-country expedition. The event will involve physical challenges, problem solving-based tasks and all centred around discovering Mentor's leadership, teamwork and communication competencies.
- Before the selection event, inclusivity risk assessments will be drawn up to ensure the Leadership Team are upholding the highest possible standards with regards to the equitability of the process.
- During the selection process, Mentors will be interviewed and assessed on their suitability for the mentorship ahead, taking into consideration the physical and mental strain of a 10-day international expedition and appropriateness of their skills for mentoring.

# The Destination

Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

## The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany



# The Destination

Cheshire Scouts Explorer Belt 2023

## The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany

The southern part of the Netherlands lies between Belgium and Germany

- Provides several different expedition routes
- Expedition travel (walk, cycling, water)
- Different cultures and countries
- Various travel options (flight, train, coach)

# A guide to costs and finances

## Participant fee & personal expedition budget

Cheshire Scouts want to provide the best experience for all participants.

### **The 'participant fee' will include:**

- 4 training weekends including accommodation, food and resources
- International neckers and badges
- A branded t-shirt and a branded hoodie or similar
- 1 mini-Explorer Belt training expedition in the UK (to include subsistence)
- Travel to and from the final expedition destination (to include food and accommodation at base camp)
- Insurance

The cost for this full training package is expected to be in the region of £1000.

There will be options available to pay this via incremental instalments.

### **The 'personal expedition budget' will include:**

- Accommodation, food, in-country travel, contingency, project work and any luxuries

Teams are encourage to choose and calculate their own budget based on the type of experience they would like. This will depend on the selections made above.

The cost to expect for this budget will be calculated per day. We estimate this to be an average of around £20 per day (totalling £200 for ten days).

There will be guidance and help given to participants to achieve this personal budgeting successfully.

Network members we will be offered a few smaller packages for those who want a more independent experience.

# A guide to costs and finances

## Mentor fee & personal expedition budget

Cheshire Scouts want to provide the best experience for all Mentors.

**By becoming a Mentor, it is currently expected that you will receive the following at a reduced cost or none:**

- 4 training weekends including accommodation, food and resources
- International necker and badges
- A branded t-shirt and a branded hoodie or similar
- 1 mini-Explorer Belt training expedition in the UK (to include subsistence)
- Insurance

**Mentors will be responsible for paying towards the following as part of a 'personal expedition budget':**

- All in-country costs including accommodation, food, in-country travel, personal contingency and any luxuries

**Mentors may be responsible for paying towards the following as part of a 'personal expedition budget':**

- Travel to and from the expedition base camp (Europe). This is expected to be in the region of £150-250 for flight fees, for example

Help and support will be available to assist those under financial hardship.

The cost to expect for this budget will be calculated per day.

We estimate this to be an average of around £20-50 per day (totalling £200-500 for ten days).

**Shared costs** such as in-country car hire or planned contingent social events in-country may be able to be shared amongst the mentorship team or subsidised by the expedition budget. The financing of this part of the Mentor's experience is largely to be confirmed and decided.

Cheshire Scouts International

# Explorer Belt 2023



Q&A

Questions for the panel

# **Mentors - apply!**

[cheshirescouts.org.uk/explorerbelt](https://cheshirescouts.org.uk/explorerbelt)

# **Got a skill? – email!**

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