



Hampshire Scouts

Hampshire Explorer Belt 2018

Questions and Answers

Q: What is an Explorer Belt?

A: An Explorer Belt is an expedition like no other. The aim is to fully immerse yourselves in a new country and to learn about its culture and its people. While travelling, your team will have some small tasks and a project (chosen by you) to complete.

Q: How long is the Expedition?

A: An Explorer Belt (XB) is ten days long. We expect to be out of the UK for around two weeks, depending on flight time to the chosen country for the expedition.

Q: Do we have to walk a specific distance?

A: No, to complete an XB you need to travel for an average of 5 hours a day. You don't have to walk it all either. A big part of XBs is to learn to use local transport to get around. If you're feeling really adventurous you might even consider travelling by horse!

Q: How big will my team be?

A: We can't be sure until we have all of our participants and know everyone's skill level, but we are aiming for teams of 4 for the over 18s and teams of 5 for the under 18s.

Q: Which country will we be going to?

A: That's up to you to decide. We need to go to a country that no one has spent much time in and we ideally want to stay in Europe. Aside from that, it's entirely your decision.

Q: What's the cost?

A: To put it simply, as cheap as possible! You will be given a limited amount of cash, so your team will need to budget well for this trip. We are aiming for the trip to be no more than £700, but would like to keep it nearer £500. It depends what country we end up choosing and how much flights are.

Q: Will we be on our own out there?

A: No, you will have a support team who will come and check on you every couple of days. This team consists of Jools (ACC(I)) and Jo (Andover District Scout Network Commissioner), who led an XB trip in 2014, and Anna, who took part in that same expedition.

Q: Will we just be walking whilst out there?

A: No, you will have a few small tasks to complete that will be set by your support team, i.e. visit a local church service. You will also choose a small project that you can research out there. This will then create the basis for the presentation when you are back in the UK.

Q: Why do we do a presentation?

A: To complete the XB, you must feedback to parents, leaders, friends and more about what you got up to on your trip. Part of this feedback must include info on your project and your tasks. Take lots of photos to show everyone what you got up to.

Q: Do I need any specific skills before I apply?

A: You will need to be confident camping, carrying all of your own kit, and cooking on something like a Trangia. You will also need good map reading skills. Don't worry if you aren't strong in all of these areas, we will be practicing, and you will have team mates to help too.

Q: Do we always camp during the XB?

A: No, whilst you have to assume that you will be camping for the 9 nights, you may not. Part of the XB is to explore and get to know the local culture. This hopefully means you will meet and talk to local people, where you may get opportunities to stay with local families, or in interesting places. This has included Scout Huts, Churches, Sports Pavilions, Castles as well as people's houses.

Q: How do we prepare?

A: We will have a couple of planning meetings, where we will decide a country, an area and decide your teams. We will also start planning routes and arranging who can bring what kit. We will also have two practice weekends where you will do a mini XB. This allows us to see if you can tell which way North is, and gets you in the habit of completing your tasks and working as a team.

Q: Do we know any dates yet?

A: The following are the dates that we currently have lined up

- a. 28th October 17 – Information Evening in Winchester (e-mail international@hampshirescouts.org.uk for details)
- b. 12th Nov 17 – Close of Applications
- c. 2nd Dec 17 – Planning Day
- d. 2nd-4th Feb 18 – Training Weekend 1
- e. 18th Mar 18 – Planning Day
- f. 6th – 8th April – Training Weekend 2
- g. June 18 – A Potential planning day if needed
- h. 30th June – 15th July 18 – Expedition

Q: Can we pay in deposits

A: Yes, we very much encourage deposits. We have the following stage payment dates

- a. £100 – Deposit – Nov 17
- b. £150 – 2nd Payment – 1st Feb 18
- c. £200 – 3rd Payment – 1st Apr 18
- d. £50-£250 – 4th Payment – 1st June 18

Q: Where can I find out more about Explorer Belt Award in general?

A: You can always look at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/explorerbelt>