

Adult Training: The Wood Badge & OCN

Whilst I was attending modules for the Wood Badge I also registered for the Open College Network accredited course: "*Providing Voluntary Youth Services Award*".

I found the process of recording the information related to each OCN module rewarding in that it made me look at elements of the training in greater detail than I might have done otherwise; reflect on the information given and its application in the context in which volunteered.

I was given good advice and support by the training adviser team and this ensured that I had the resolve to finish off the necessary documentation, supported by witness testimonials, photographs validation certificates from TAs and other evidence of my volunteering in scouting.

It was great to be informed that I had gained an external recognition for my volunteer role in addition to my Wood Badge. It had the grand title Open College Network Award in Providing Voluntary Youth Services (for Section Leaders).

So what is the OCN? As part of the adult training scheme it is now possible for adults to work towards externally recognised awards through the training and the work they do as an adult in Scouting. The Scout Association have produced a fact sheet, (FS500015) as an introduction to the awards and it is intended to give basic information to prospective candidates.

The Open College Network

The National Open College Network (NOCN) is the UK's foremost provider of accreditation services for adult learning. NOCN is a recognised national qualification awarding body and is the central organisation for 28 Open College Networks (OCNs) based across the UK. NOCN provides national qualifications and programmes in a wide range of subject areas and offers a local accreditation service through the OCNs. NOCN also works in partnership with organisations (such as The Scout Association) to develop learning strategies.

The Awards on offer

There are currently two full awards on offer:

Providing Voluntary Youth Services is aimed at Section Leaders and those working directly with Young People and is a full award at Level 2 (see below for an explanation of levels).

Managing Voluntary Youth Services is aimed at those in management roles in Scouting such as Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders. It is also a full award at Level 2.

Completing the awards

To gain the award you must prove that you can meet the assessment criteria for each unit (provided on registration). The assessment criteria should fit in with the role you have in Scouting and with validation criteria in The Scout Association's adult training scheme. Your Training Adviser will assess, from your evidence whether you have met the assessment criteria to the necessary standard.

The OCN units do not exactly match The Scout Association's training modules as some of the modules have been combined to form one OCN unit but they do cover exactly the same content.

For example, Module 8 'Skills of Leadership' and Module 9 'Working with Adults' have been combined to form one OCN unit called 'Team Working & Leadership'.

National Qualification Framework

All government-recognised qualifications and awards are put into a 'qualifications framework'. The two main awards, Providing and Managing Voluntary Youth Services have been accredited at Level 2. This means that they are comparable with a GCSE (Grade A*-C), an Intermediate GNVQ or a Level 2 NVQ.

The single units available for Trainers have been accredited at Level 3. This means they are comparable with an A-Level, an Advanced GNVQ or a Level 3 NVQ.

Registration

The Scout Association handles registration centrally. Application forms are available from the Information Centre.

More information

For more information contact:

OCN Awards

Adult Support Office

The Scout Association

Gilwell Park

Chingford

London

E4 7QW

020 8433 7100

adult.support@scout.org.uk

NB: Please do not contact the Open College Network (either your local college or nationally), as they will not be able to give you detailed information on the awards.