



High land adventures

Snow activities

Ice climbing

Absailing

Search and Rescue exercises

Caving

Hill Walking

Rock Climbing

Orienteering

Fell running

Mountaineering

High level camping

Bouldering

Mountain biking

Pony trekking

A word cloud centered on the phrase "Living skills". The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape around the central text. The words include: First Aid, Life's essentials, Solvent abuse, interests, Social security, Job Hunting, Stocks and shares, European Community, Child Care, Managing money, Sex love and marriage, Family Planning, Plumbing, Cooking, Morals, Political Parties, Building societies, Setting up home, Going to university, Gardening, Drug Abuse, Going for an interview, The social services, Insurance and life assurance, Drink and driving, Alcohol use and abuse, Learn to sew, Mortgages, Crime prevention, Fire Prevention, Careers, Debating, Driving, Painting, Parentcraft, Euthanasia, Parents, Hygiene, Hobbies, and Health.

Living skills

Night hikes
Backwoods cooking
Survival hikes
Star trails
Wide games
Tracking
skating
Backpacking
Horse riding
Environmental projects
Camping
Night adventures
Pioneering
Forestry
Obstacle courses
Cycling
Archery
Farming

Low level adventures

Wild life spotting
Bivouacking
Sailing
Boardsailing
Rubber rafting
Swimming
Canoeing
Gorge and gulley trails
Coracle
building
Rowing
Bridge building
Raft construction and rafting
Fishing
Canoe building
Night navigation
Bird watching

Water adventures

A - Z Programme ideas

ABSEILING

Be sure to get a person qualified to teach you and your group. Train your group. (Fund raiser - abseil down a building).

ADOPT

Adopt a youngster and raise cash to purchase a specific piece of equipment for that person (ie, phonic ear, rambler, motorised wheelchair).

AEROBICS

Bring down someone who gives classes in aerobics and give it a go - see how fit you are.

ALARM

Design and build a mechanical/electrical alarm system for your meeting place (seek help from expert).

AMENITIES

Compile a booklet of amenities of your town showing the location of telephones, toilets, post boxes, car parks, clinics, access ramp for wheelchairs and other useful items. Then publish it.

ARCHERY

As a group or individually learn and become proficient in the art of archery.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Visit an archaeological dig in process (contact local clubs/universities about locations).

ART

Go to an art gallery

Organise a pottery tour or send Ventures to a course

Have a 'Modern Art' night. Try different crazy ideas (an art student can help)

Try paper clip sculpture in 2D and 3D. Make any weird shapes or try something constructive.

Mould figures from plaster to raise funds or make a chess set (local hobby shop can help)

Try macramé (knotted cord) or string craft. See your library for books on this.

ASTRONOMY

Locate and name constellations in the sky at night. Draw a 'star chart' for your meeting place. Visit a planetarium/telescope site.

ATHLETICS

Organise or take part in an athletic meet or cross-country run. Organise an athletic meet or cross country run for cubs/scouts.

BABY SITTING

Make money for a group or individual for your expedition.

BADMINTON

Make sure to get proper tuition for the sport.

BASKETBALL

Learn the rules and maybe form a club or league.

BEACH COMBING

Great fun on a summer night or day out.

BIRD WATCHING

Take a cub pack or scout troop for a nature walk and study the birds around the countryside.

BLIND

Organise a Talking Newspaper for the blind ie, read a newspaper to a blind person or read a newspaper to a tape for a collection of people.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Encourage 75 people to give a pint of blood who have never given blood before or in the last five years. Awareness campaign.

BOARD GAME

Design a human board game. Mark out the floor and play the game. If not, enough ventures ask the scouts or cubs to help.

BOOK BINDING

This could be done on a couple of nights in winter by an expert and then bind up a log book for the group.

BOWLING

A lot of bowling alleys are now located around the country.

BRASS RUBBING

BUILD A BIKE

Build a bike/tandem/go-cart. Organise a competition with another group for fun.

CALL MY BLUFF

Two teams of 3 or more. Each team has a list of words. Each member gives a definition of the word to the other team (two wrong and 1 right). The other team has to decide which definition is right (maybe do this with another venture group).

CAMPSITE

At a local campsite, help establish a permanent archery range, nature trail, orienteering course or similar facility.

CANDLE MAKING

Great way to make money at Christmas time. Make unusual candles. Also great fun.

CANOE MAKING

Rent a mould and make your own canoes (it can work out cheaper). Make sure you leave a lot of air ventilation in the room.

CAR MAINTENANCE

Get an old banger of a car and do it up from engine to body work with the help of a mechanic.

CAVING OR SPEIEOLOGY (to give it its full name)

Get in touch with somebody qualified to go caving (great - make sure of safety and equipment).

CB RADIOS

Set up a radio on the air with CB radios. Make sure it does not interfere with Garda, Ambulance, Fire Brigade etc.

CHALLENGE HIKE

Take a specific total height of mountains and climb them over a number of months.

CLEAN UP

Undertake a clean-up of an area vandalised or left in bad condition.

CLAY SCULPTURE

With the help of a person who knows the clay, make a clay sculpture for your den.

CLIMBING

Learn to climb and do it with the group and, if the group wishes to, take a course to leadership. Two or three night visits at a climbing wall to learn the skills needed.

CLOTHES DESIGN

Members of the group design their own clothes (from old sacks, Oxfam, plastic bags, etc).

CODES AND SIGNALS

Learn the codes and signals for safety and shipping etc. Set a signal trail for your group/scouts/cubs.

COINS

Collect old coins and find their original worth of the coins. Display them in a project.

COMPUTERS

All sorts of games are available. The work of the group can be lodged on disc and a member of the group introduced to computers for the first time.

CONTACT

Contact other youth organisations for their programmes and events (see In Touch).

COOKING

With the group cook a dish you would not normally cook, or a four course meal for guests. Try some foreign dishes.

COUNTRY DANCING

Learn a culture of the dances of Ireland and those of another country.

CRAB FOOTBALL

Football match down on your hands and knees played with a soft ball.

CRAFTS

Have a crafts night. Bring people down who can teach you and your Ventures pottery, candle making, weaving, leather work etc.

CREATIVE WRITING

Ask members of your group to write a story to tell the group at a meeting (you could have someone who loves to write and are not let express themselves).

CROSSWORD

Paint each members name on the wall in crossword fashion.

CUSHIONS

Make cushions for your den or meeting place, for the floor or to make your furniture more comfortable.

CYCLING

Set a challenge for the group or a small number of Ventures in the group.

Use national or local events, eg, the Mara-cycle. Cycle to events that are far away. Try a fancy dress cycle or a cycle on tandems, a bike treasure-hunt, or bike orienteering. Try bike maintenance - can you fix a puncture, replace a brake block? Hold your meeting in an unusual place and cycle to it. Make a trailer for a bike. Build a frame to make an exercise bike out of an ordinary bike.

DARK ROOM

Make a dark room (quite easy) and buy the equipment to develop black and white photos.

DARTS

Organise a darts match with some other local groups.

DAY IN THE LIFE

Pick a place and sit or walk through it. Record all aspects and items of interest over a period of 24 hours.

DEATH MASKS

Make death masks. Each member presses their face into a soft substance which will give suitable impression of features. Recast in plaster and hang in the Venture room or den.

DEBATING

Take a topical subject, maybe an issue in your locality and debate with another group or even yourselves, ie white wedding - is it appropriate for our time.? yes/no.

DECORATING

Decorate your Den or venture room in your own style. Try and get a grant for this project. Sometimes up to 50% can be gathered.

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Hold a radio show and ask people to pick their favourite discs. If they went to a desert island, what 3 items would they bring with them and why?

DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

Arrange in exciting days activity for local group of disadvantaged youngsters.

DRAMA

Start a drama night and put on a show. From lighting, to play writing, and costume to curtains. This production could be any of the following: review, gang show, dramatic production, light opera, comedy, or your own show.

Fund-raising ideas: turn the den/scout hall into a theatre for the night and charge admission. Produce a programme and sell advertising space.

Get involved in all aspects of theatrical production: music, make up, lighting, costume.

Those members of the group who do not wish to act can get involved in the preparation and the backstage work.

Video records could be available on loan from VEC, friends, schools, local library boards, comhairle le leas oige. Consider obtaining sponsorship for the film/video cost.

Write a simple script and entertain the beavers with puppets, eg, use old socks with stickers for eyes and nose.

Get involved in the national Scout Show. Write, cast and produce a play of your own. Choose a topical theme, and do a play/drama based on that theme.

Break into acting by using small role-play situations, improvising (eg "Whose line is it anyway?" Channel 4) .

DRESSMAKING

And even the girls could try this!!

DRIVING

Teach all the members of your group to drive at the right age.

DRUG ABUSE

Find out information about drug abuse in your locality. Is it a problem? Invite someone down to talk to a group about all aspects of drug abuse (remember drink and cigarettes are drugs also).

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

As ventures can drive at the age of 17, have a highway code night.

ELDERLY

Under Garda direction fit door viewers and chains for the elderly. Visit an elderly person once a week.

ELECTRONICS

Introduce your Ventures to the world of electronics. Get an electronic engineer in to talk about trying to build a radio.

EMBROIDERY

Get a design and embroider it for your den.

ENTERTAINMENT

Organise entertainment for a children's home.

ENVIRONMENT

Act local think global. Look at where your group meet. Is rubbish recycled? Heat wasted due to bad insulation? Are lights being left on unnecessarily? Are there bird boxes for wildlife?

EXPLORER BELT

Arrange for two members of your group to go on the Explorer Belt. Get sponsorship/funding for some of the trip form firms and shopping areas.

EXPLORING

Take a lake or mountain area or a conservation area and explore it for nature, wildlife and community etc.

FASHION SHOW

When organising the Fashion Show, remember the importance of hair styles, make-up and accessories. Your fashion show could have a theme, for example, 60's, 20's, the year 2010 etc. The fashion show could be fund raiser or run in aid of charity.

Consider the following:
Programme with advertising
Raffle
Tea/coffee interval
Auction for best costumes

The attendance at the show could include parents, other venture groups or other local organisations.
Decide in advance how much a person should spend on a costume.

Shop for second-hand clothes - try some or all of Oxfam, War on Want, jumble sales, markets, attics.

Don't be afraid to ask for help with sound, lighting, etc.
Video recorders could be available on loan from V.E.C, friends, schools, local library boards, Comhairle le Leas Oige.

Consider obtaining sponsorship for the film/video cost.

Girls design clothes for the boys and vice versa.

FENCING

The art of fencing is difficult but great discipline.

FILM FESTIVAL

Film festival could be run over a weekend or one night or a series of week nights. You could run it as a fund raiser:

List of films: The Killing Fields, Witness, Days of Wine and Roses, ET, Lady Sings the Blues, Ghandi, When the Wind Blows, 12 Angry Men, Chine Syndrome, Cry Freedom, Dead Poets Society, Rainman, The Accused, My Left Foot, the Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne to name but a few.
You could run other films of your choice.

FILM MAKING

Make a film of your choice.

FIRE WOOD

Collect, chop, bag and distribute firewood to the elderly.

FISHING

Maybe a member of your group who enjoys fishing could teach the rest of the group and take them out to the river.

FLAN FIGHTS

A messy night (great fun).

FLOWER ARRANGING

For an event in your Unit or Parents Meetings.

FOOTBALL

Organise a challenge match over a festive season (ie St Stephen's Day, New Year's Day) against the leader of the Unit or region for charity.

Organise a tournament for the region or a couple of regions.

FOREIGN POLITICS

Check out a foreign country's politics and compare it to our own.

FOREIGN SCOUTS

Act as a guide and companion to foreign scouts or scouts from another country visiting your area for holiday or camp.

FORUMS

Organise, with the help of your ARC, a Regional Venture Forum and discuss with the Ventures of your group topics directly relating to ventures. Bring the items to Regional Forum and then on the National Venture Forum.

GAMES

Dig out old games: Trivial Pursuit night, have a scalextrix/model car racing night.

Play the following games:

Chatter Box: Set a record for the amount of Venture that can get into a telephone box (toilet or mini).

Custard Wellies: A relay race around a course in teams. Each player must wear wellies full of custard.

3D X's and O's: 2 teams - one is X and the other O. Place 9 chairs out in 3 rows of 3. Teams are in a line. One person comes out and sits on a chair. X's must cross (just like normal X's and O's).

Giant Ludo: Make a Ludo dice from sheets of cardboard or thin plywood. The board can be made of paper and placed on the ground. Use ventures as the counters.

Matchbox Nose: Relay race. Each team has a matchbox. The member must complete the course with the matchbox on their nose. No hands to be used passing the matchbox on to the next player.

Mrs or Mr

Universe Contest: Arrange different feats of skill to be completed (eg, eating 2 raw eggs followed by a packet of cream crackers - no eating or drinking between crackers) as well as setting up interview by compere.

Skirt Race: Teams of 4 or 5 people. Relay Race. 2 people get into a skirt and race the course. Arriving back, the next two on their team get into the skirt and race. First team home wins.

Smallest Cup of Tea in the World: Use a thimble for a kettle, teapot a cup. One tea leaf and some water to make the tea. A 10p piece as a fire place and some matches as fuel for the fire.

String Trail: Organise a blind trail where everyone must carry a basin of water as well as following the string trail - blindfolded of course.

This is Your Life: Spring a surprise on a leader, parent or older venture who is about to leave the group.

Throwing Smiles: Group stand in a circle and keep a straight face. Once venture smiles and puts his hand on his face to throw the smile to another venture. That person smiles and then he throws his smile. Ventures must not smile who have not been thrown a smile.

Witch Hunt: Using pioneering skills make a ducking stool that really works.

GANG SHOW

Organise a gang show with your unit. This can be a PR job for your venture group.

GARDENING

Organise a garden around your den or school.

‘GET OUT OF THAT’

Organise a sequence of events and obstacles. Let the group organise themselves to get out of the situation.

GLIDING

(No insurance by Scouting Ireland CSI). Get insurance from the club.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Invite local counsellors or members of parliament to speak to a group. Ideas: Rape Crisis Centre, Sex, Drugs, AIDS, Sexual Equality, Legal Rights.

GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

Get your group into the Guinness Book of Records by doing something very good or very silly.

GYMNASTICS

Take your group to a gymnastic display (could be fun).

HAIRDRESSING

Have a hairdressing night - funny hairdos etc. Ask a hairdresser or beautician to visit the group and advise on hair and beauty.

HAMMOCK

Design and make a hammock - use it out in the open.

HAVE A GO

Organise a day in the open - pitch tents, fire, gadgets, rope work, swings from ropes, aerial runway and invite locals and their families to use the equipment. Teach boys and girls the proper way to light fires (safely). Use as a PR exercise, let them ‘have a go’.

HILL WALKING

Plan a series of hikes in the hills over a few months or have some easy nature walks.

Have a theme hike

Fancy Dress: Pick an era and dress according to the fashions of the day.

History hike: Find out the background of the place you are hiking to.

Marathon Joke hike: Set a record or the longest joke telling session on a hike.

Bring a pal hike: Introduce somebody to Ventures by bringing them on a hike.

New members hike: Bring new members of the group on a hike instead of a normal meeting.

Past members hike: Ex-members of the group or unit.

Trace the source of a river

Group Triangle hike: Split the group into three smaller groups, each of which starts at a different corner of the triangular route. Meet in the middle.

Have a hike in each Province

Navigation hike: Leave a message for another group and give them only the grid reference of the message.

HISTORY

Take your town or city and trace back as far as you can for a project.

HOCKEY

Maybe some member of the group would join a club.

HORSE DRAWN CARAVAN

A great venture expedition for the summer

HORSE RIDING

A great day out for the group.

HOSPITAL

Assist in or organise a local hospital radio station.

HOUSE HOLD SKILLS

Learn to change a plug, wash and iron a shirt, unblock a drain etc.

ICE CLIMBING

Get trained and take a life time trip to the snow to climb ice.

ICE HOCKEY

As a group, get trained and taught how to play ice hockey by a team and take part in a tournament.

ICE SKATING

Learn to ice skate if you have a local rink or organise a day out to your nearest ice rink.

INDUSTRY HERITAGE

What effect on your locality had old industries in your area. Are they still there? Research for a project on your area. Visit industry in the area.

INITIATIVE TESTS

Organise initiative tests for your group (ideal for indoor meeting).

INTERIOR DESIGN OR DECORATING

Design and decorate your venture room or den - unusual design.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPSITE

Research the International Campsite Programme and get our ventures to organise to go no staff.

INTERNATIONAL COOK NIGHT

Invite parents or unit council to an International Night. Decorate the den or room in the country and cook the dish and serve to the guests.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT (new and general)

Bring all national papers to a meeting. Ask the group in small teams to cut all articles of international interest. What do we do or how much do we do influence other countries (eg, food, cars, music, films, politics). Ask each group to give a small presentation or short play/sketch to put their ideas across.

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING

With the removal of the Iron Curtain try and make contact with a Scout troop/Venture group starting up. Offer help and support.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Select a country and find out about costume, food, methods of transport, language etc then visit that country. (Explorer Belt).

INTERVIEWS

Using a tape recorder or video interview people for a theme, eg, community involved people, cub leader, scout leader, commissioner, other ventures and put together a radio show with music.

INVESTITURE

Make an investiture a programme event eg, power station, ship, cave, top of mountain, weather station, boat club, Mayor's office, town hall, radio station, etc. Get permission, the Venturers will never forget where they were invested.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

Organise a day when Jamboree on the Air is around the world. Get local people who know about stations to teach you the basics.

JAZZ

Not the stuff that Top of the Pops is made but jazz has very deep roots. Why not look into where jazz and blues comes from and what their origins are. Listen to jazz music on a series of night in your meeting.

JEWELLERY MAKING

Simple iron or steel or soft metals. Jewellery can be made at a meeting.

JUDO

As a group, learn the art of judo and learn the cultural side of judo.

JUSTICE

Does it work? It means different things to different people. Why not visit a court room (local or other during your mid-term break?) Maybe ask a barrister, lawyer or garda to visit your group and explain how the process works.

KARAOKE NIGHT

Get ventures to organise music that they can have a good night trying to sing - remember the words.

CARTING

Design and get material to build a go-cart and bring it to a track under supervision. Take it out around the track.

KIDNEY DONOR

Encourage 75 people to carry donor cards that do not carry them already. Start an awareness campaign.

KILLALOE

Organise a weekend expedition to the CSI Water Activity Centre at Killaloe. A great time and you will be taught how to sail, canoe and board sail.

KITE FLYING

- Take an aerial photograph
- Kite joist - Chinese fighting kites or war kites. For this, you fly your kite into the other and bring it to the ground.
- Target flying - fly a balloon first and hit the balloon with your kite to burst it.
- Kite race - up to 200 feet and down. You need 300 feet of string for this one.

KNITTING

Try knitting with spars and sisal (fun night).

LATTICE WORK

Using reeds, rushes and bamboo learn how to make a piece of furniture or table mats etc.

LEATHER WORK

A lovely art and very good for indoor meetings. Belts, bands for wrists and necklaces can all be made easily by beginners.

LIBRARY

Offer a library service to infirm/ house-bound people or the Cub or Scout section or the whole unit.

LIFEGUARD

Learn to swim and life save. Become a lifeguard.

LOANS

Ask a bank manager to attend a meeting and explain about standard grants and loan from his bank. Also about mortgages etc.

LOCAL

Ask a local fire prevention officer to talk to your group about prevention of a fire in your house or meeting place.

LONG DISTANCE

Organise a long distance race - 3 legged, boat, game, hike, bike.

MAP MAKING

Make a map of your den/room, surrounding town/area.

MIME

A night of mime (play charades)

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Arrange for a personnel manager or some other person from a local business to come and speak about interviews and CVs. Arrange for interviews to take place.

MODEL MAKING

A night of making models - planes, boats etc

MOTHERS AND FATHERS NIGHT OUT

Ask mothers and father along to a meeting to teach ventures how to change nappies, arrange flowers, knit, ice cakes, fix cars, paint woodwork or anything else you want to learn.

MOTOR CYCLING

Some of your group may be interested in motor cycles. Do a project on motor cycles down through the years and visit a motor cycle track. Also maintenance and safety features.

MOUNTAINEERING

All aspects of mountaineering to be explored.

MUSIC

Go to see a local band/organise a local concert and ask local bands to perform to raise funds. Don't forget to publicise it well.

MUSICIAN

Get a musician to teach your group how to play a musical instrument, for example, tin whistle or drums. Form a band, maybe a marching band for the Unit. Carve a whistle out of wood.

MUSIC QUIZ

Organise a quiz for a night on all aspects of music.

MUD FIGHTS

If the opportunity arises on camp or expedition or even outside the den.

NETBALL

Learn the rules and organise a team to take part in a tournament.

NEWSPAPER

Organise and publish a magazine/newsletter for the group.

NON-ALCOHOLIC NIGHT

Have a non-alcoholic night. Ask a barperson to help your group to make the non -alcoholic cocktails.

NON-COOK NIGHT

Hold a non-cooking night and have a feast (eg, petite fours, cakes, dips, crispy buns).

NOTICE BOARD

Make and look after a Unit Notice Board for all sections. Make sure to get information from sections and other organisations and post these on the notice board. Rotate looking after the board.

OFFICER

Invite a Crime Prevention Officer or Juvenile Liaison Officer to visit the group and talk about how your den can be better secured. Can you help with community watch?

OPERA

Why not join a local opera club.

ORIENTEERING

With the help of an orienteering club, learn the sport of orienteering and take part in an outing.

ORIGAMI

A lovely ancient art of paper folding. Why not try and get someone to show you how.

PAINTING

Contact a painter and organise a painting time with water colours, oils and pencils etc.

PAPIER MACHÉ

Make puppets using papier maché for heads and material for the body.. Paint them and write a puppet show for the Beavers or Cubs or young children in your area. Don't forget lighting, curtains and music.

PARENT

As a group become a sponsor 'Parent' for a child in a developing country (cost approx (IR£80-IR£100).

PEACE POSTER

Produce a peace poster using quotations from Baden Powell, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, J F Kennedy.

PEN PALS

Write to foreign Scouts Headquarters and look for pen pals with a view to keeping up correspondence.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ask you group to take photos of events and have a night to display all photographs. Maybe get into developing your own photos.

PICTURE FRAMES

Design and make picture frames to hold photos of an expedition or event of your group.

PLAY

Visit a theatre to see a play (a great night out).

PLAYGROUND

Identify an area that needs an adventure playground. Design one, get permission, then build it.

POETRY

Why not try a night of poetry readings with your group.

POLICE

Find out who your Community Garda/Police Person is and invite them down to speak to the group. Help engrave bicycles under Garda/police supervision.

PONG TRAIL

Start a meeting with this tracking game using strong onion or garlic. Rub it on the lamp posts or gate posts, signs or gates. Lay a trail. Be careful that it does not rain as the smell will wash off.

PONY TREKKING

A nice sport for spring for the whole group to get out, see the country side from a different angle.

PRAM RACE

Sponsor race, fun race, make your own eg, painted and customised, put a seat in it and a steering wheel.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Organise a competition for a new group logo for headed paper. Use good printed copies and give your group a new image.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Organise a night of public speaking and arrange for a parent or other person to speak.

PURPLE WRITING

This is the name given to very expressive or elaborate writing. Have a go at this: instead of talking on a subject for a period of time, ask a member to write a description of a particular item and the group have to guess what it is.

QUADRAPHONIC

Build your own system for the Den, local hall etc.

QUIZ

Just-a-minute quiz - general knowledge. Each member in the team has to answer questions for a minute.

QUIZ NIGHT

Different topics eg, scouting, football, pop music, rap, jazz, current affairs and general knowledge.

RADIO STATION

With the help of local people set up a 'radio station' for an event or Community Day.

RAFFIA

Using soft rope and twine make hanging baskets, basket ball nets etc.

RAILWAY

Walk a disused railway line and see where it leads, eg, start to finish of the line, stations, signals etc.

REPAIRS

Get the group to carry out any repairs to your den or room. Teach ventures to wire plugs and mend broken windows, fix broker plumbing pipes.

RESCUE SKILLS

Get trained in rescue (hills, boats, ice, water, etc) and be ready to be called.

RESTORATION

Organise your group to restore old furniture for your meeting place.

ROLLER SKATING

Organise a fancy dress/fund raising/long distance/or just a fun event.

RUGBY

Form a team or do a project on the history of rugby. Visit an international match for a day out.

SAND YACHTING

Build a sand yacht and try it out.

SCAVENGER HUNT

At least 3 teams. 50 items each with a points value. First to find the item gets the points. Ideas: items starting with alpha-bet. Try a scavenger hunt on bikes.

SCOUT SHOW

Get involved in the Scout Show. Perform or work with the people behind the scenes.

SCRABBLE

A scrabble night can be fun with your own group or invite another group or youth group.

SCREEN PRINTING

Design your own tee shirt and get a company to show you how to screen print.

SET DANCING

Great fund and keeps you fit. Joint a club or dance club.

SKATEBOARDING

Learn properly and know all the safety rules. Use the proper protective gear.

SKIING

A day out on the dry ski slope and maybe plan a skiing expedition.

SKITTLES

Milk cartons (5) in centre of the room. 3 teams of any number (numbered). Call number one from each team and they have to try to take the cartons from the centre or rob from the other teams while trying to hold on to their own.

SPEAK EASY

Invite speaker/ members from 3 different religions or cultures to a meeting. Select subjects to discuss, for example, sex, abortion, drugs, alcohol. Ask the 3 people the same questions. Where the response is different, why? What effect does it have on society.

SPIDER'S WEB

Find a spider's web (disused). Using spray paint transfer web to stick backed paper and mount it on a black card (looks amazing).

SPIRITUAL

Try to have a short time at meetings to see how the Scout Law, Principles and Promise apply to every day life. Use items in the new to illustrate, eg, newspaper clippings on say 'the plight of the travelling community' or 'down and outs'.

Follow up with discussion on:

- Why help and how to help them
- What do you think are other needs in your area, country and world link the discussion with the Scout Law
- Compare the Scout Law/Promise to the Ten Commandments.

Some ideas for debate:

- If we were arrested for being Christians would there be enough evidence to convict us?
- Current pressures on the institution of marriage.
- "Religion is the opium of the people". Marx.
- "If God did not exist would it be necessary to invent him?" Voltaire

Invite people from other religions to talk to the group about their faith.

SQUASH

Learn the game and play a league.

STAGE

- Go to see a play or pantomime during December. Arrange a tour of the theatre including the light console and sound console. Meet the cast.
- Ask a local drama group to visit you group.
- Become involved in an amateur dramatic production or produce your own play.

STAMP COLLECTING

If a member of your group collects stamps arrange for them to explain stamp collecting to the group. Also arrange a stamp swap with other youth groups.

STRANGE COSTUMES

Look into exotic and strange costumes. Put together projects on the costume and make some of the items you find out about.

STREET FOOTBALL

Organise a street football competition for the summer project organisers or the community.

STREET MIME/THEATRE

Write a play or musical and perform in a street theatre. Dress up and paint faces. Carry out a street theatre/mime show in your local town.

SUB-AQUA

Learn the sport of sub-aqua and take it to the sea.

SUNSET/SUNRISE

Have a sunset/sunrise hike. Start at the top of one hill at sunset and hike to another hill arriving at sunrise. Watch the sun rise (Summer nights are shortest).

SWIMMING

Make all your group be proficient in swimming and maybe life saving.

TALKING MAGAZINE

Instead of writing a magazine or newsletter, try making a talking magazine/Podcast by using a tape recorder and background music.

TAP DANCING

Great for fitness if done properly and great fun.

TAPE

Make a tape and slide show of your group and sent it to a foreign group (great fun making the slides).

TENNIS

Learn the rules and maybe join a club to play properly.

TEN PIN BOWLING

Learn the rules. Lots of bowling alleys now have great leagues.

TOOLS

Collect unwanted tools to be sent to a developing country.

TOTEM POLE

Carve a totem pole for your venture den or room. Carve the group names onto it and add to it in the future.

TOURIST

Write a tourist guide of your area for foreign scouts, locals or scouts from another town.

TOWN TWIN

Organise your community with the view to twinning your town or area with a foreign town.

TOYS

Collect and renovate children's' toys and donate them to homes and hospitals.

TRADITIONAL DRESS

Research a traditional dress and make up the costume (eg, Irish, Celts, Vikings, Stone Age, Greek, etc)

TRAIN SPOTTING

Good fun on a good spring day out on a hike (watch the railway lines).

UNIT DINNER

Organise a dinner for the Unit Section Leaders and any other people who have helped the group over the year. Good PR, also a nice gesture.

VIDEO

Make a video of your group activity or a lot of activity over a period of time and use to show parents or Unit Council what you do.

VISIT

Visit a large firm and talk to PR people, management People, floor people about all aspects of the business.

VOLLEYBALL

A team sport and great fun. Form teams and join a league.

WATER ACTIVITY

Help water activity section with the maintenance of boats and premises.

WATER HERITAGE

What has been the impact on your area as industry has grown up? Use 'at the moment' and 'in the future'. Water wheels (flour mills). Invite an historical expert to give a talk.

WATER SKIING

Insurance depends on the length of the boat pulling skiers. Make sure you learn from a qualified person. Can be very dangerous.

WEAVING

Maybe there is a weaving class near you. Ask them to show the group how to weave and weave something for your den or venture room.

WEEKEND AWAY (1)

Spend a weekend in a National Park or Wild Life Park and record the sound of animals for about 10 minutes. Record the journey to and from the place by use of a camera or by recorder.

WEEKEND AWAY (2)

Organise a hike to a series of mountains. Try to arrange for another venture group to be at the mountain opposite at the same time and send semaphore messages to each other (be sure to practice first).

WHEEL CHAIR

Arrange a wheel chair shopping expedition.

WHEEL CHAIR PUSHING

Put yourself in the place. Sponsor push to raise funds.

WICKLOW WAY - Way marked trails

Walk the Wicklow Way or other way marked trails. Great way to raise money as well as fund (sponsored hike).. Arrange to stay with venture groups if you have to travel to Wicklow.

WIND SURFING

Clubs now teach and provide the boards for you to learn.

WINDOW BOX

Make a full window box for the elderly living in flats.

YOGA

Learn the art and the cultural side. Great to learn to relax.

YOUTH GROUPS

Help another youth group who are organising an activity or conference.

ZOO

Trip to the zoo (yes the zoo). Most zoos are involved in animal welfare. Maybe you could also take a special interest in a special animal over a period of time.