



WEST LANCASHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

ARDENNES ADVENTURE 2005

FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

The following is a summary of the feedback questionnaires from 15 Explorer Scouts.

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Okay</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>V. Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
<p>How did you rate the trip OVERALL? <i>(Excellent (Wouldn't have missed it for the world), Very Good (Better than expected), Good (As expected), Okay (but below expectation), Poor (I'd rather have been with mum in Skegness!).</i></p>					<p><u>11111111</u> <u>11111111</u></p>
<p>Excellent, really enjoyed it, ace place, beautiful scenery. Great people to be around and go with. Activities were also ace! Overall FANTASTIC! I nspired me to do so much more. Excellent! Wicked, one of the best trips I've been on. Great group of people!</p>					<p>Proper good. Hopefully goin again next year. Well organised & fun. BETTER THAN EXCELLENT Better than any trip I've ever been abroad with school.</p>

Now you've returned home and recovered, what was the MOST ENJOYABLE part of the event?	
<p>Climbing - Multi-pitch, great buzz, really enjoyable. Climbing or Caving - couldn't decide Everything was great, but the climbing was incredible, probably the best part. Getting to know everyone and making new mates. The whole week - especially meeting new people. Where can I start? How long have you got. Mountain biking - even though we had to put up with Stu!!!!!! The second day caving and spending ages discovering cool parts of the cave.</p>	<p>Caving. Being treated as equals and being given trust. The range of activities. The chilling in the evening. Canoeing down rapids and Climbing at Dave Cavin' were good an so was climbin as well. Caving - amazing! Excellent!!!! No other comment needed!</p>

And what was the LEAST ENJOYABLE part of the event?		
<p>Having to go home... and having to put up with Stu! Hee Hee Hee!!! Goin home The early start for the journey home.</p>	<p>There wasn't one. None! Cycling The journey Coming home.</p>	<p>Having to leave. Travelling - it was too hot Nothing because it was all great. Havin' to go home Long journey</p>

Please rate your feelings in connection with the following:-

Pre-trip Information	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
<p>Very thorough Didn't know about the trip until the weekend before the training weekend Knew exactly what to bring. A LOT better than expected though. Impossible to put THAT in a letter.</p>		<p><u>11</u></p>	<p><u>111111</u></p>	<p><u>11111111</u></p>
				<p>Intro night was a bit tiresome All information was relevant. I wasn't sure how it would work. Well informed at all times.</p>

Training Weekend	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>1111</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>1111111111</u> <u>1</u>
Cool Saturday night spot near lake! Getting to know people before spending time with them. I would have enjoyed it more if I weren't knackered from the weekend before! Really good for £10! Lots of activities. I an showed us how to blow up rocks!!!!				Got to do loads and meet folks. Good chance to get to know everyone Had new experiences which changed my mind. Only stayed until the Sat. lunchtime but enjoyed up till then
Canadian Canoeing	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>111</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>11111111</u>
Ace, but not so good weather Very good going down the weirs. Learn't women can't drive!!!				Rapds were Brill. Fun building shelters. Exciting going down weirs. Loved the rapids and canoeing through a thunderstorm!!!!
Rock Climbing	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>1</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>11111111</u>
Excellent, definitely want to get more involved. Sunny as well, good views Great buzz. Proud vto complete the challenge.				I nspired me to do more Single pitch was good training and hard. Multi-pitch was really excellent. Even better than excellent!
Caving	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>11</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>111111111111</u>
Two great days with Dick & Grandad N ever done before - great new experience. Spending 2 days down a cave with Dick and Grandad - what more could you want?!!! Even better than excellent!				Big formations & tight squeezes Enjoyed it on the training weekend: didn't do it in Belgium. Never done before, but it was the best of ll activities. Wet+deep+rocky = Fab. Good fun & different. Grandad was cool! Really fun as long as you bring wellies Retard!
Mountain Biking	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>1</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>111</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>11111</u>
Shame it was with Stu (heehee!!) Never done before. Great new experience. Never done before but it was really good.				Goin up was good but comin down weren't. Off road very good. Brilliant - except for crashing into car.
Overnight Hike	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>1</u>	<u>Excellent</u> <u>111</u>
Good freedom, fun				Got lost a couple of times, but overall really good fun.
Catering - We supplied breakfasts - you were expected to look after yourselves for lunch and main meal. How do you think you coped with this arrangement? Please comment	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>11111</u>	<u>Excellent(I now need to diet)</u> <u>1111111111</u>
Great experience, feel more independent I am now a "pro" at steak hashes! Horse meat were nice. So was fish. Coped well (H starve? NEVER) Burgers most days but stew was really good People were nice enough to do most of the work for me☺ (THAT kid will go far!!!! Dick) Didn't starve and loved being able to choose what to eat everyday.				Fine, it was an arrangement that worked well It was good coz we eat what we wanted. Cheap, so plenty of food. I coped very well and it was good to have a BBQ at the end I had some really good meals for lunch and tea - despite getting food-poisoning from salami! After Day 1, I decided I did not want to eat pasta for 7 days. Day2 had Horse Meat - SUPER!

Scouting Ethos - We had opening/closing ceremonies.....and wore activity "uniform" when out. Was this.....	<u>OTT</u>	<u>About Right</u> <u>1111111111</u> <u>11111</u>	<u>More needed</u>
I am proud of my uniform!!!! Maybe just travel in polo shirt & necker? A bit hot at times tho'. About right because it was more of a holiday.	Not too much, but enough to get the message across we were Scouts. I felt important. I think the Scouts should be represented wherever. Didn't want to take the activity uniform off and saw how the uniform helped us through customs.		
Have you any comments on the activity with the Belgian Scouts?			
Great to meet people with a different language/culture Good - nice to meet them! It was good meeting other Scouts. The games were a bit naff. It was really cool to actually meet them this time. It was hard but I really enjoyed it. It was hard but fun trying to communicate. Great Bunch.	Yeah, it should have been more in English so they couldn't have taken over. Good pancakes! Found it a good experience communicating with the Belgians. Didn't like their hot pants. Seemed friendly enough. A good laugh - the language barrier made it more fun. Really enjoyable to interact with the locals and learn new wide games. Was fun. We got used to communicating with the Belgian Scouts. Good. Not too challenging a way to fill the Saturday. Quite funny when we were trying to tell them what a "fail" was.		

What was the MOST IMPORTANT thing you LEARNT during the week?	
Independence. Independence How to do multi-pitch climbing. Dropping French in school wasn't as good an idea as I thought! Don't leave salami in the sun!!!! Have fun. To work together as a team and consider everyone when things go wrong	Co-operation, teamwork, independence Money is valuable and don't waste it. Friendship is the key to everything. How to work and have fun together. First impressions AREN'T important! People I thought I won't get along with were great. That beer in Belgium is very strong. Found out the hard way (But ONLY had two bottles a night - wink wink!)

Do YOU think the trip has had any IMPACT on you as a person? i.e. Do you think the experience has changed you in any way?	
I've matured. More responsible Yes, independence, learnt people skills. Made me more independent. That I am willing to have a go at any challenge. Yes I CAN now cook and I'm a bit more organised. Made me more responsible having to fend for myself. I feel more grateful towards my parents for cooking my tea every night! More proud to be a Scout than I was and made tons of new mates!	I bonded with Ray & Granddad, yeah, I got more independent It's made me more understanding of people like X. Yes, I now appreciate having food bought and cooked for me. I reckon it improved my French and I made more friends. Yes, makes me want to travel more and see different places. I think it has made me want to help people in activities when I am older. I look forward to future trips abroad with Explorers. It has also increased my experience.

Other COMMENTS, particularly those that may help our planning future trips?	
LONGER!!!! Very good trip. Don't change it too much. Maybe have the trip later in the year. No: planning & timing were all perfect. We had no problems. Make sure people don't get ripped off in supermarkets..... and I wish it could be longer!	Maybe encourage a more mixed group - male/female. Carry on organising them - they are great the way they are. My parents would appreciate a telephone call on our arrival, just for peace of mind. Keep on going as you are..... how about the whole of the summer holidays?!!!!!!!

You will realise that numbers are limited on an event of this nature. Would you be upset if we gave preference to Year 10s (4th year) and under? What other solution to potential over-subscription can you think of?

No, it is sensible - at least they can't be distracted if they have important exams.

I dunno, exams are important, so maybe.....

I WOULD be upset cos I wanna go again.

Advise those who didn't get on to look at other International Scouting events.

Yes coz if you was young you could always go on it when you are older.

Yes, but can understand why Year 11s might not attend - GCSEs and all!

Open it up to only the U16 age group and maybe do another trip for 16-18s.

I'd be very upset if I wasn't invited again - it was great. ALL year 10s should be invited - could we offer, say, two events a year: one for younger - one for older.

NOT just 4th year - I want to go AGAIN!!!!!!

Under Year 10 is too young.

I think that you should not let people on again unless enough places. I think the older people should get on because they ave less time to get on it if rejected.

No, I realise that numbers must be limited, but some older Explorers must go to provide balance.

Yes..... 1st come 1st served!

No, I would not be upset - just disappointed. But hopefully have a chance to do something else.

I would feel sorry for people in Year 11 and above that hadn't been able to try the "Ardennes Experience"

Feedback from Parent/Guardian: -

There was a noticeable change when A returned from the trip. It was as A has commented: an air of confidence, direction and motivation to do more. I am only proud of how A has grown with the responsibility given to A and feel that the level of responsibility given by yourselves is just right. Thank you for helping A to grow.

B enjoys all Explorer activities from local events to international trips. He returned from the Ardennes confident that he could fend for himself and we were impressed by the stories of his shopping and culinary skills!!!! A great way for them to gain some independence, yet still be supervised from a distance.

D had a great time. He says he developed new friendships, learnt how to cook a bit more, and developed skills on activities.

E very much enjoyed the experience of the Ardennes Adventure, He always enjoys Scouting activities, but the experiences of being abroad with friends also contributed to it, having to use French, exploring Bruxelles, and going into bars to buy alcohol, all made a big impression from the feedback we got. Thanks for your efforts.

F appears to have matured as a result of this experience (we will see if this lasts!!!!).

Did come back a changed person: co-operative, organised. Unfortunately hasn't lasted - so when can we send him again?!!!! Has maintained the increased confidence and independence.

H really enjoyed this experience. He proved he could be trusted to look after himself, take care of important things like his money & documents and hopefully function as part of a team. We really hope that H continues through his life in Scouting as this gives him his opportunities to live the outside life, be responsible, and mature into a well balanced young man.

"I" had a really great time. I is more independent and not as shy as I was. I likes to meet new people and treats less fortunate than self. A good experience. (I was less intimidated this year as all the Explorers were much more the same age. *(Hmm.... Same age mix! Maybe "I" was more confident? Dick)*)

J was quite independent - being the only Explorer from his unit on the rip and we were anxious. But he benefited greatly and has added new numbers on his mobile for "texting". He has told us "mostley" what went on and we are impressed by the leaders' commitment and care. Thanks for that! Training weekend... a quick chat rather than "last years slides" would have been appreciated.

K obviously had a great time judging from above comments. Thank you all for your time & commitment.

The experience has definitely been good for L and has helped his development in many ways. Thanks for all your efforts. I think the organisation has been excellent. Ta!

M still won't shut up about how good it was - what did you feed him on? He grew AGAIN whilst away and I'm fed up trying to find trousers long enough for him! Do you know how difficult it is to find leg length of 34" without the need to take out a 2nd mortgage IF you can find them. That aside, you all seemed to have done everything just right.

Thanks for giving "my baby" such a great time!!!! *(I PROMISE I won't let on who this baby is Carrington!!!! Dick)*

Explorers has helped N find his own independence: they have to look after one another. It would have been nice if one of the group could have phoned on arrival, just to know you were all afe. Thanks to all of you for giving your time in order for them to have a wonderful experience. Thank you.

This has been a very positive experience for "O". It has enhanced his growing independence and self reliance, as well as developing his skills in activities he took part in - he has even applied his barbecuing skills for us! Many thanks.