

HOW TO WORK WITH UNIFORMED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

AN INTRODUCTION FOR HERITAGE
ORGANISATIONS, VENUES AND
PROPERTIES



CO-CREATED WITH YOUTH VOICE AMBASSADORS

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How to work with Uniformed Youth Organisations An Introduction for heritage organisations, venues and properties

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What are uniformed youth organisations?

Uniformed youth organisations/groups provide weekly activities for young people aged 4 to 24. They help them build skills, confidence, sense of community and belonging – which is enhanced by wearing uniform, hence the name. Most groups are run by volunteers. The organisations include:

[Army Cadets](#),
[Boys’ Brigade](#),
[Fire Cadets](#),
[Girlguiding](#),

[Girls’ Brigade](#),
[JLGB](#),
[RAF Air Cadets](#),
[Royal Navy Cadet Forces](#),

[Scouts](#),
[Sea Cadets](#),
[St John Ambulance](#),
[Volunteer Police Cadets](#).

The above organisations are part of the Youth United Foundation (YUF) Network. YUF’s [Heritage Youth Partnership](#) supports collaborative heritage initiatives, nationally and locally, that help young people explore the past, understand their communities and deliver heritage-focused social action.

Why work with uniformed groups?

Partnering with uniformed youth groups is a great way to bring new energy, perspectives and audiences to your heritage work/site. These groups already have heritage themes in many of their badges and programmes. By working with them, you can build lasting partnerships, widen your reach and ensure the heritage you are protecting and sharing remains relevant and accessible to the next generation.

Heritage plays a key role in shaping community identity, bringing people together through shared history and a sense of belonging. Evidence shows that members of uniformed youth groups feel a stronger sense of community value — 61% say they feel like valued members of their community, compared with 45% of non-members (DCMS, 2025). They could bring this community spirit to interacting with and sharing your venue's heritage, as well as contributing to its protection.

What could you offer them?

Your site could become an inspiring setting for hands-on exploration, skills development and awards like The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). You could provide a space for events, celebrations or volunteer training. You could even co-create trails, badges or challenge packs that put your heritage directly into the hands of young people and empower them to champion it within their communities.

Activities groups might be interested to complete at your site include:

- Hiking/orienteering
- Exploring nature/naturalism
- Pioneering (building structures)
- Fire safety (outdoor cooking)
- Camping
- Art/Crafts/Fashion/Photography
- Music/Dance
- Cooking (including heritage cooking techniques)
- Physical recreation (sports/games)
- Local history and stories (engaging with house owner, tours and talks)
- Collecting/Curation
- Events and celebrations (e.g. end of year awards, exhibitions of young people's work)
- Meetings and training (e.g. AGMs, First Aid Training)
- Leadership and Teamwork
- [A Takeover Day](#)
- Volunteering/Work experience
- Virtual tours/Online resources

Getting started

Once a partnership is in place, uniformed youth groups often return again and again. A little initial planning can lead to a sustainable legacy. Here's how to do it...

1. Decide what your offer is - keep it to one sentence if you can

Choose a simple, concrete offer that fits your capacity, so enquiries are easy to handle. For example, "We can host 1-hour heritage tours and hands-on sessions for uniformed youth groups of up to 30 participants, aged 8 to 16, on weekends" or "We have a large room available to hire at a discounted price on weekday evenings". Include information on whether the offer is restricted to certain times, days of the week or months.

2. Pilot it and set it up

Whatever your vision is, try to work with one local group (you can find them online or ask YUF to help you reach out) and see it come to life on a small scale. Then use what you've learnt to open it up to more groups.

This could include writing a short document with details of the offer for leaders who express interest. Doing this now will reduce the number of questions you'll need to answer and will make sure all the essentials have been considered (see 'Outlining your offer' and the optional template).

3. Publicise it and watch it play out

Post your offer on your website and social media, local community message boards and Facebook groups, and share it with YUF so we can share it for you. If you're a Historic Houses owner, sign up to the Heritage Youth Partnership and add your offer to your profile so it appears on the [search map](#).



Outlining your offer for uniformed groups

Consider the below, for creating a 'Youth Offer' information pack, to share with uniformed groups who express interest. We've created a template form for this on the next page.

- What your offer for uniformed groups is
- Staff/volunteer/group leader resource required e.g. Can you deliver a short talk or tour, or will the visit be self-led by group leaders?
- Arrival time and meeting point
- Parking including for coach/minibuses
- Your facilities e.g. toilets, cloakroom, space for a group to have lunch?
- Accessibility and inclusion (physical access, neurodiversity, sensory needs)
- On-site contact name and mobile number
- First aid arrangements and nearest A&E
- Cancellation policy and inclement weather plan
- What is your safeguarding policy and code of conduct? Do you have a designated safeguarding lead? Ask leaders to confirm their own DBS/leader ratios.
- Details of your public liability insurance and, if in doubt, include a clause that the group must provide their own leaders and insurance confirmation.
- Risk assessment completed for the activity and site visit (take a look at our risk assessment template)
- Cost (free/discounted/paid) and payment method



Optional template for sharing details of your youth offer

Please feel free to complete this form, to share with group leaders who express interest in taking up your offer with their uniformed group.

Our offer for uniformed youth organisations
Staff/volunteer/group leader resource required
Arrival time and meeting point
Parking
Facilities e.g. toilets, cloakroom, space for a group to have lunch?
Accessibility and inclusion (physical access, neurodiversity, sensory needs)
On-site contact name and mobile number
First aid arrangements and nearest A&E
Cancellation policy and inclement weather plan
Safeguarding policy, designated safeguarding lead and code of conduct
Details of public liability insurance (if in doubt, include a clause that the group must provide their own leaders and insurance confirmation.)
Risk assessment for the activity and site visit (take a look at our risk assessment template)
Cost (free/discounted/paid) and payment method