

# British Exploring Society

## Key Dates for Leaders 2026

Volunteering as a Leader for British Exploring Society is a significant commitment with unparalleled development opportunities, guaranteed to make a positive life-changing impression on the young people in your Fire.

This document contains key dates for Leaders on all British Exploring Society programmes in 2026. **Last updated: 11 November 2025**

### Key Dates Summary

Joining instructions for each event will be sent out at least 4 weeks before the event begins. Please ensure you can make all **training** and **delivery** dates before applying for a programme.

#### Finding Your Feet Adventure Weekend: Cannock Chase

- Leader Induction, Online: Sat 7 & Sun 8 February
- Leader Training, Peak District: Fri 6 (eve) to Sun 8 March
- Adventure: Fri 10 to Sun 12 April

#### Hitting Your Stride Adventure Week: Exmoor

- Leader Induction, Online: Sat 7 & Sun 8 February
- Leader Training, Peak District: Fri 6 (eve) to Sun 8 March
- Adventure Advance Party: Fri 22 to Wed 27 May
- Adventure Main Party: Sat 23 to Wed 27 May

#### Hitting Your Stride Adventure Week: Cairngorms

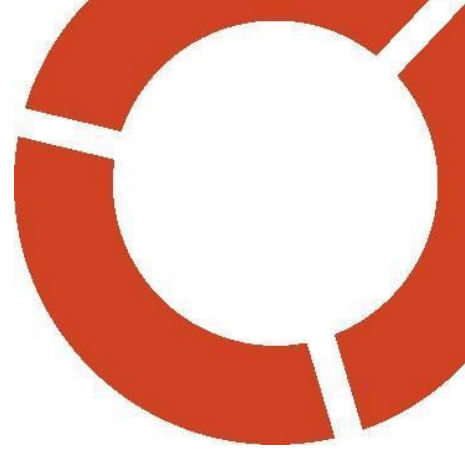
- Leader Induction, Online: Sat 7 & Sun 8 February
- Leader Training, Peak District: Fri 6 (eve) to Sun 8 March
- Adventure Advance Party: Thu 23 to Fri 31 July
- Adventure Main Party Sat 25 to Fri 31 July

#### Ready to Explore Knoydart Expedition

- Leader Induction, Online: Sat 7 & Sun 8 February
- Leader Training, Peak District: Fri 6 (eve) to Sun 8 March
- Young Explorer Training Expedition, North Wales: Sat 23 to Wed 27 May
- Expedition Advance Party: Sun 2 to Tue 18 August
- Expedition Main Party: Wed 5 to Tue 18 August
- Explorer Celebrations, London: TBC

#### Ready to Explore Kyrgyzstan Expedition

- Leader Induction, Online: Sat 7 & Sun 8 February
- Leader Training, Peak District: Fri 6 (eve) to Sun 8 March
- Young Explorer Induction, Cannock Chase: Fri 10 to Sun 12 April
- Young Explorer Training Expedition, North Wales: Sat 23 to Wed 27 May
- Expedition Advance Party: Sun 19 July to Sun 23 August
- Expedition Main Party: Sun 26 July to Sun 23 August
- Explorer Celebrations, London: TBC



## What’s included in this Explainer

Mandatory Training and Onboarding for all Leaders .....	2
Leader Induction, Online: Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February .....	2
Leader Training, Peak District: Friday 6 (eve) to Sunday 8 March .....	2
Outdoor First Aid.....	3
Mental Health Awareness - Online .....	3
Safer Recruitment Admin .....	3
Role Specific Commitments & Key Dates .....	3
Medical Leaders.....	4
Base Camp Managers.....	4
Adventure Leaders: Mountain Technical Competency Training & Assessment .....	5
Social Leaders.....	5
Knowledge Leaders .....	5
Finding Your Feet Key Dates.....	6
Adventure Weekend: Cannock Chase.....	6
Hitting Your Stride Key Dates.....	6
Adventure Week: Exmoor.....	6
Adventure Week: Cairngorms.....	6
Ready To Explore Key Dates .....	6
Knoydart Expedition.....	6
Kyrgyzstan Expedition.....	7
Explorer Celebrations.....	7

## Mandatory Training and Onboarding for all Leaders

This section applies to all Leaders except Welcome to Adventure Wildestan Experts.

### Leader Induction, Online: Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February

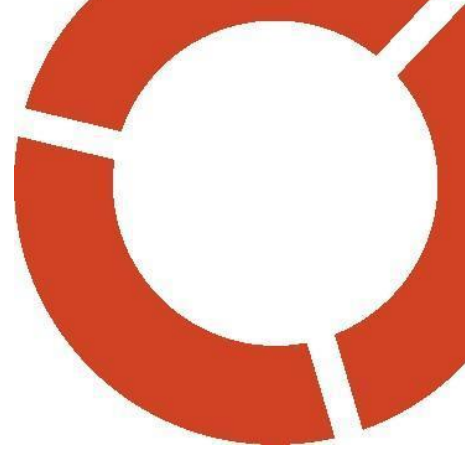
This weekend introduces British Exploring Society and our approach to youth development. You will also learn how we manage safety and any incidents, including safeguarding, on our programmes.

- All New Leaders must attend both days.
- All Returning Leaders may attend both days and **must** attend Sunday.

### Leader Training, Peak District: Friday 6 (eve) to Sunday 8 March

Leader Training is a world-class development opportunity, led by your Chief Leader, where you will meet your Leader team and learn more details about your programme. You will also practice key expedition skills including emergency procedures, how to work with young people and manage group dynamics, and how to deliver Adventure, Social and Knowledge projects with a youth focus.

- Accommodation and food provided.
- A blend of indoor and outdoor activities, run by highly experienced professionals within your leadership team.



## Outdoor First Aid

- All Leaders must hold a valid 16 hour Outdoor First Aid certificate.
- British Exploring Society provide up to £200 expenses to cover the cost of the course. This does not include travel, only the cost of the course itself.

## Mental Health Awareness - Online

- All Leaders must complete our 90-minute online mental health awareness programme or provide evidence of having completed a course of equal or longer duration in the past 3 years.

## Safer Recruitment Admin

**The deadline for the completion of all Safer Recruitment Admin is 2 March 2026.** This includes the following documentation:

- Your Leader Agreement & Privacy Notice
- Equal Opportunities form to help us monitor the diversity of our teams.
- Leader biography and photo so that young people, guardians and partners can learn more about who will be leading the programmes.
- DBS check, including an international check if you have lived outside the UK for longer than 3 months in the past 5 years.
- Other role-specific qualifications.
- Recent references: 2 for new Leaders, 1 for returning Leaders.
- British Exploring Society Standard Operating Procedures test.
- Supporting You: our medical and social support screening form.
- Overseas Expeditions only: passport checks and any required vaccinations.
- Any additional onboarding tasks as identified by British Exploring Society staff.

## Role Specific Commitments & Key Dates

Please read this section in parallel with the [Leader Role Descriptions on our website](#).

### Role Specific Key Dates Summary

#### Medical Leaders

- **Role Specific Training: 18 February (Evening, Online)**
- **Significant additional time commitment for all programmes**

#### Base Camp Managers

- **Role Specific Training: 23 February (Evening, Online)**
- **Significant additional time commitment for Expedition programmes**

#### Adventure Leaders

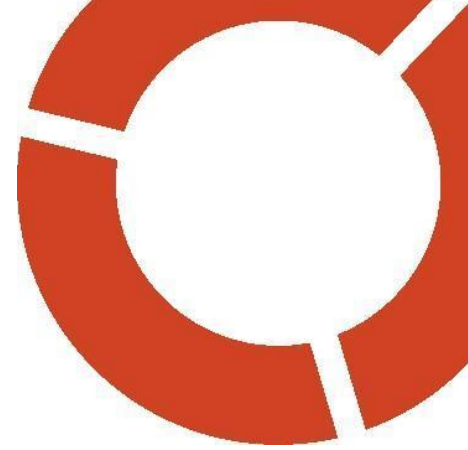
- **Mountain Technical Competency: 6 March, Peak District**

#### Social Leaders

- **Role Specific Training: 11 March (Evening, Online)**

#### Knowledge Leaders

- **Role Specific Training: 18 March (Evening, Online)**



## Medical Leaders

### Role Specific Training: Wednesday 18 February (Evening, Online)

Participant medical screening before programmes take place is a significant commitment and an essential part of the Medical Leader role.

### Finding Your Feet and Hitting Your Stride Adventures

- Read Supporting You forms for all participants, young people and Leaders.
- Lead one-to-one screening conversations with participants you have identified as having additional or complex medical or support needs. These conversations will happen online and we expect you to offer availability across a range of dates and times from February onwards.

### Ready to Explore Expeditions

- Read Supporting You forms for all participants, young people and Leaders.
- Lead one-to-one screening conversations with all participants, ideally in person at the Young Explorer Induction weekend.
- Review the First Aid kit list for your programme, considering the requirements of all programme participants.

## Base Camp Managers

### Role Specific Training: Monday 23 February (Evening, Online)

The level of responsibility and commitment we ask from Base Camp Managers increases in proportion to the duration of the programme.

All Base Camp Managers will join the Advance Party for their programme.

### Finding Your Feet Adventure Weekend

- No advance party and no additional time commitment required outside the weekend.
- British Exploring Society staff will be present on location to introduce you to the role.
- Expect to cook meals according to a meal plan provided by British Exploring Society and keep cooking facilities clean and hygienic.
- Distribute and maintain equipment and clothing provided by British Exploring Society and keep track of any damaged or lost equipment.
- Keep track of any spending.
- Ensure Base Camp is an orderly and safe place for Leaders and young people.

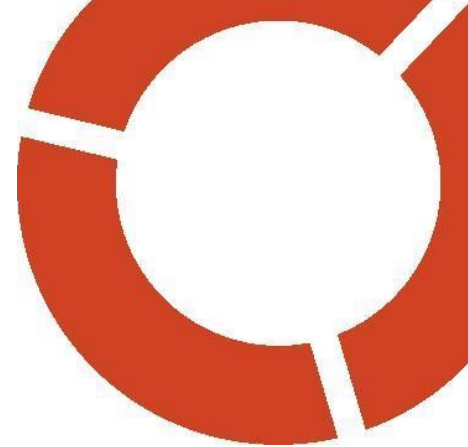
### Hitting Your Stride Adventure Weeks, Exmoor and Cairngorms

- Some additional time commitment, primarily joining the Advance Party.
- British Exploring Society staff will not be on location.
- Drive the van from London to the programme location, arriving in time for the start of the Advance Party dates.
- Return the van to London after the end of the programme.
- Help set up and pack down base camp.
- Other responsibilities as on the Finding Your Feet programme above.

### Ready to Explore Expeditions, Knoydart and Kyrgyzstan

- Significant additional time commitment in addition to joining the Advance Party.

- Working with your Chief Leader, you are responsible for all aspects of base camp, inventory, food and equipment provision, financial tracking, vehicle maintenance, and logistics throughout the programme.
- Make food plans and order food for all residential elements of the programme, including Young Explorer Induction, Young Explorer Training Expedition and Expedition.
- Work with Chief Leader and Kit Stores Coordinator to compile a kit list and order any supplies needed for all residential elements of the programme.
- Compile kit and sizing requirements for Young Explorers who will be receiving clothes, boots and equipment.
- Attend one or more packing day(s) in London in advance of the expedition.
- Expedition driving responsibilities including van transportation and off-road.



## **Adventure Leaders: Mountain Technical Competency Training & Assessment**

### **Friday 6 March, Peak District (same date and location as Leader Training weekend)**

This full day on the hill is an opportunity for our Mountain Technical Advisor to provide update training to all Adventure Leaders in advance of their deployment in the field. Expect scenarios similar to your Summer Mountain Leader assessment, including rope work.

Technical Assessment is part of our assessment process for Adventure Leaders and our Technical Advisor may recommend additional support for Leaders who do not reach the standard required. In very rare cases, the Technical Advisor may recommend the withdrawal of a Leader.

- Mandatory for all Adventure Leaders.
- Assessment is valid for 3 years.
- Additional date if required: Friday 3 April, location TBC

## **Social Leaders**

### **Role Specific Training: Wednesday 11 March (Evening, Online)**

Participant pastoral screening before programmes take place is a significant commitment and an important part of the **Senior Social Leader** role. Social Leaders may also be involved in pastoral screening as directed by the Senior Social Leader and/or British Exploring Society staff.

### **Finding Your Feet and Hitting Your Stride Adventures**

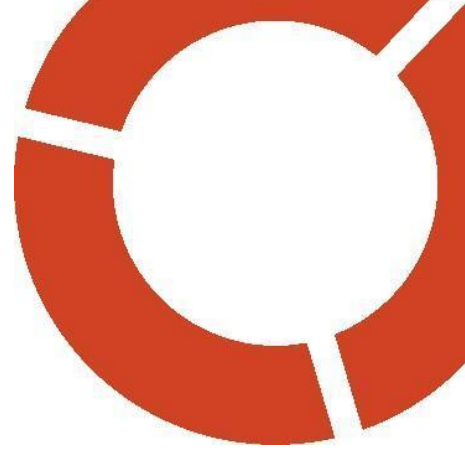
- Read Supporting You and Reference forms for all participants, young people and Leaders.
- Lead one-to-one screening conversations with participants that the Senior Social Leader has identified as having additional or complex support needs. These conversations will happen online and we expect you to offer availability across a range of dates and times from February onwards.

### **Ready to Explore Expeditions**

- Read Supporting You and Reference forms for all participants, young people and Leaders.
- Lead one-to-one screening conversations with all participants, ideally in person at the Young Explorer Induction weekend.

## **Knowledge Leaders**

### **Role Specific Training: Wednesday 18 March (Evening, Online)**



## Finding Your Feet and Hitting Your Stride Adventures

- No additional time commitment required beyond any research or activity preparation you wish to do.
- You may be asked to deliver Knowledge projects prepared in advance by British Exploring Society.

### Ready to Explore Expeditions

- Work with the Chief Leader and Senior Knowledge Leader to research inspiring, creative and educational Knowledge projects for your expedition and your Fire.

## Finding Your Feet Key Dates

### Adventure Weekend: Cannock Chase

All Leaders must attend the following:

- Leader Induction as above
- Leader Training as above
- Adventure Weekend, Cannock Chase: Friday 10 – Sunday 12 April

## Hitting Your Stride Key Dates

### Adventure Week: Exmoor

All Leaders must attend the following:

- Leader Induction as above
- Leader Training as above

You will be notified by your Chief Leader whether you are required in the Expedition Advance Party or the Main Party.

- Advance Party: 22-27 May
- Main Party: 23-27 May

### Adventure Week: Cairngorms

All Leaders must attend the following:

- Leader Induction as above
- Leader Training as above

You will be notified by your Chief Leader whether you are required in the Expedition Advance Party or the Main Party.

- Advance Party: 23-31 July
- Main Party: 25-31 July

## Ready To Explore Key Dates

### Knoydart Expedition

All Leaders must attend the following:

- Leader Induction as above
- Leader Training as above



- Young Explorer Training Expedition, North Wales: 23-27 May

You will be notified by your Chief Leader whether you are required in the Expedition Advance Party or the Main Party.

- Advance Party: 2-18 August
- Main Party: 5-18 August

### **Kyrgyzstan Expedition**

All Leaders must attend the following:

- Leader Induction as above
- Leader Training as above
- Young Explorer Induction, Cannock Chase: 10-12 April
- Young Explorer Training Expedition, North Wales: 23-27 May

You will be notified by your Chief Leader whether you are required in the Expedition Advance Party or the Main Party.

- Advance Party: 19 July – 23 August
- Main Party: 26 July – 23 August

### **Explorer Celebrations**

**Date TBC**

This celebration day in London is for Knoydart and Kyrgyzstan Expedition participants only.