



**Somerset
Adult Training**

Module 25 (NAA) Assessing Learning

This presentation pack supplements the Workbook learning undertaken for members to work towards an appointment as a **Nights Away Adviser.**

June 2022

Topics covered

Introduction

Understanding the Scheme

How people learn

Assessment and Giving Feedback

What next ?



Introduction

Introduction

Nights Away Advisers are responsible :

- For supporting and assessing the competence of adults to take responsibility for residential activities involving young people.

Nights Away Advisers must:

- Hold the appropriate Nights Away Permit i.e. have the technical skills required to run the Nights Away Permit level they are assessing.
- Have validated Module 25, Assessing Learning (this module), i.e. have the soft skills required to make effective assessments
- Remain up to date with current information about the Nights Away Scheme

Understanding the Scheme



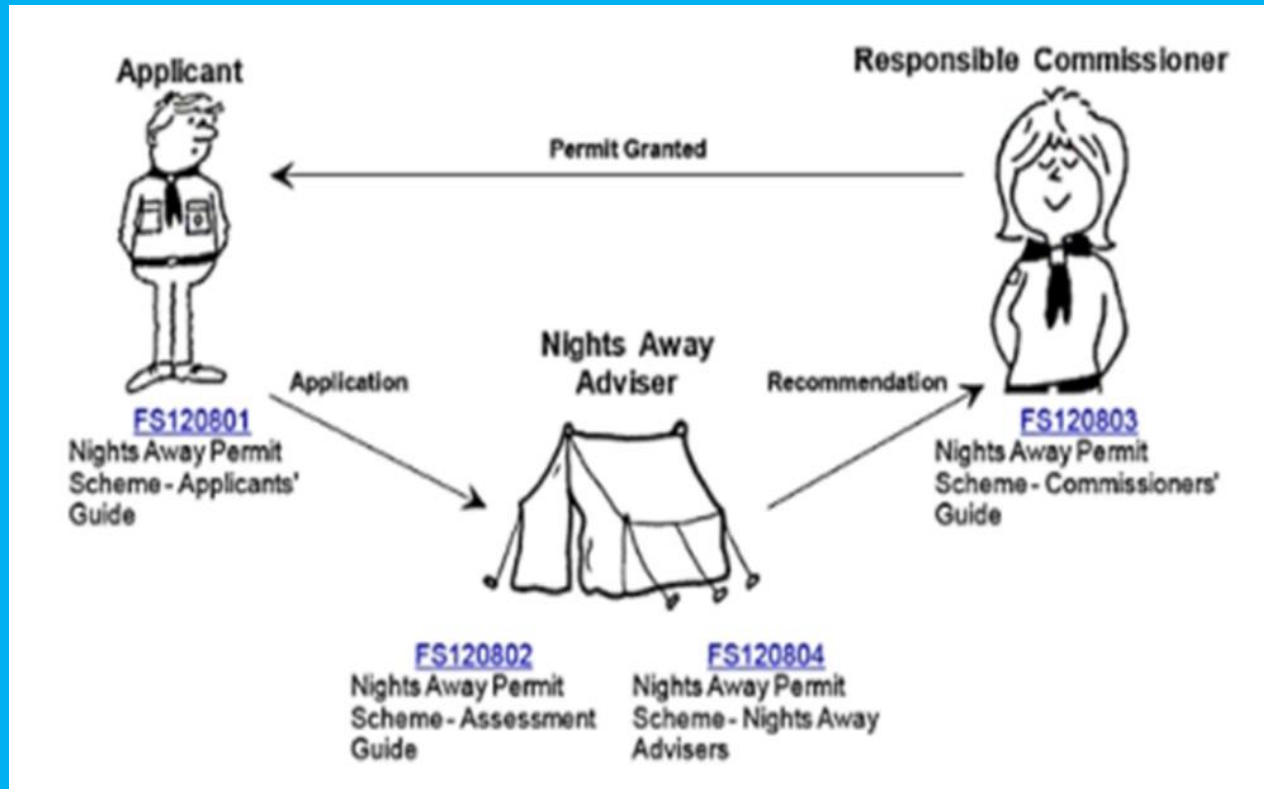
Understanding the Nights Away Permit Scheme

- A national scheme designed to promote quality nights away experiences for Members of The Scout Association under 18 years old.
- Any adult wishing to take Members of The Scout Association under 18 years old away overnight must hold an appropriate Nights Away Permit.
- There are different categories of permit available depending on the type of venue used.
 - Indoor
 - Camp Site
 - Green Field
 - Lightweight
- Nights Away Permits are not Section specific and Districts and Counties must not operate a policy of issuing only Section specific permits.

Understanding the Nights Away Permit Scheme

- All Districts and Counties/Area need to appoint one or more Nights Away Advisers. They have three key roles.
 - Assess applicants for Nights Away Permits and pass recommendations for granting Permits to District or County/Area Commissioner.
 - Provide support and advice to less experienced applicants looking to gain a Nights Away Permit.
 - Advise on camping and residential issues and generally promote nights away within the District or County/Area.
- Permits are granted by a Commissioner following recommendation by a Nights Away Adviser. The Commissioner undertakes additional checks ahead of issuance such as mandatory training and suitability

How to obtain a Permit



The Applicant, contacts a Nights Away Adviser, these are either District or County appointments and decide the type of permit required.

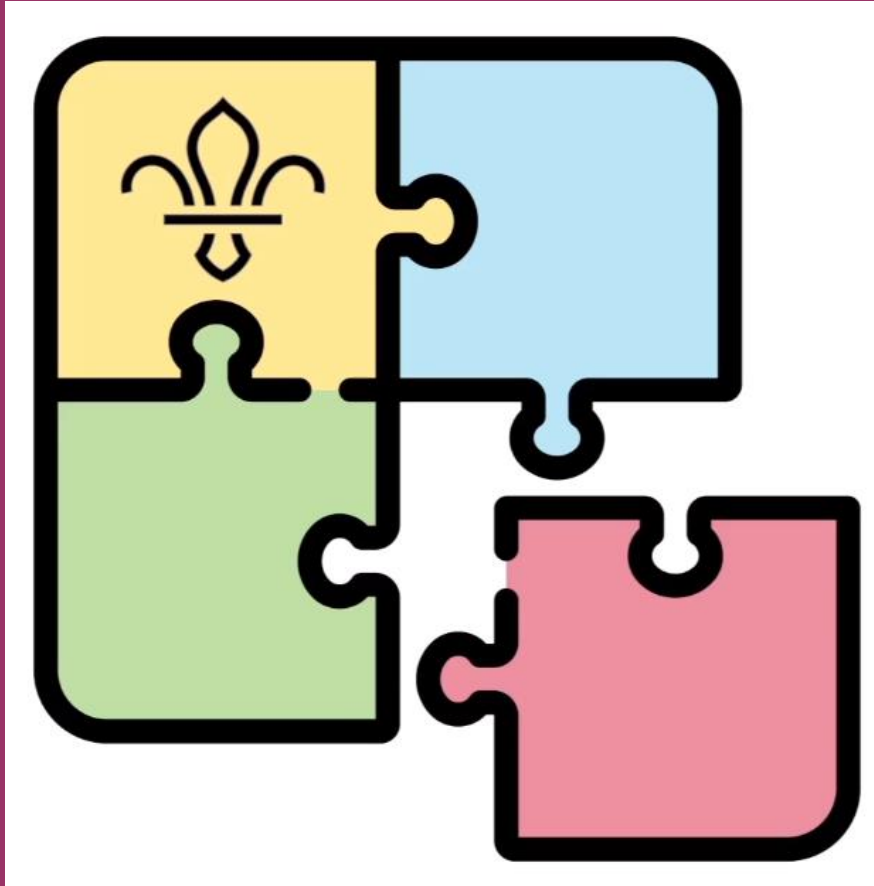
The Nights Away Adviser assesses the Applicant; both theory and practical and, if satisfied, recommends a Permit to the responsible Commissioner (DC for District, CC for County).

The responsible Commissioner reviews the assessment and authorises its issue.

Restrictions

It is possible to recommend a further restriction to a Permit, but only if there is a clear reason to do so.

The Nights Away Adviser must be able to justify to the applicant the reasons for doing so and state what further training or experience they would require to remove or change this restriction.



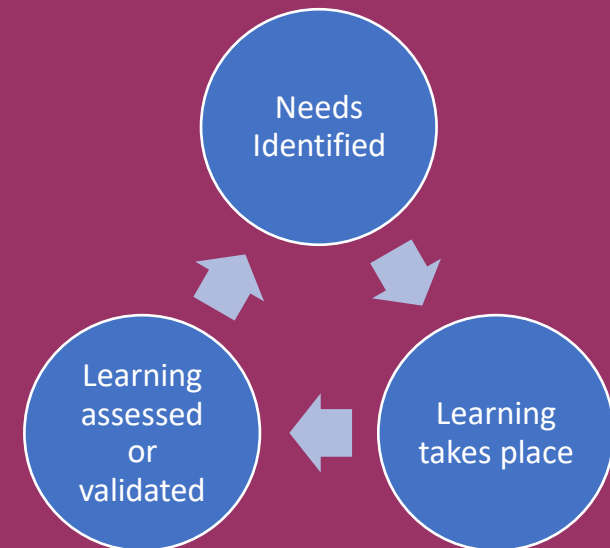
How people learn

How people learn

Learners come from different backgrounds and will have a wide range of prior learning, skills and experience which must be taken into account when assessing their learning needs.

One of the key roles of the Nights Away Adviser is to support adults in learning, not just to make a summative assessment, so identifying the learning needs has to come first, and then supporting them to do any learning required, before assessing.

In some cases this occurs as a cycle:



Questions to consider

- Find out about what experience they already have – in Scouting and out.
- Ask some questions about Nights Away experiences that they have been involved with and their role on them. Have they held a permit previously?
- Are they aware of Scout Association safeguarding policies and how they apply to these activities?
- Find out why they would like a Permit and what they hope to get out of it.
- Find out if they have Validated Introduction to Residential Experiences (16)
- Find out if they are planning any nights away experiences in the next few months.

Questions to consider

- Based on the answers to the above, either:
 - Recommend that they attend a Skills for Residential Experiences (38) training course;
 - Recommend that they attend some Nights Away with more experienced Leaders and put them in contact with some;
 - Discuss an event which they are planning on which you will be able to assess them and arrange a pre-event meeting or contact to begin assessment.

Assessment & Giving Feedback



Assessment

Assessment for the assessor and the learner should be:

- part of a fair process
- enjoyable
- part of an agreed plan
- based on appropriate evidence
- based on everyday Scouting activities
- supportive
- valued
- based on the fundamental values of Scouting

Assessment

A successful validation of training or assessment for a permit is about confirming that somebody is able to do what they are supposed to be able to and that they can carry out their role or the activity safely and effectively and within the policies and rules of The Scout Association.

It is about confirming that the learner has the required knowledge and abilities by checking that they are able to put these into practice in their role

Assessment

Do – encourage the learner to take responsibility for their own learning and assessment / validation and produce their own appropriate evidence.

Do – compare the evidence against the relevant assessment checklist or validation criteria.

Do – sign off the validation or assessment if the evidence demonstrates an understanding of the learning covered by the module, or the assessment criteria for the permit.

Do – show that you value their effort and work

Do – suggest positive things they can do to move forward

Do – ask another Nights Away Adviser or a Commissioner for advice if you are unsure

Assessment

Don't - agree to validate something if you do not feel the evidence is enough / current / relevant

Don't delay processing the outcome by adding to Compass as soon as possible so that the Commissioner gets prompt notification

Don't change your assessment process if placed under time pressure by the learner, you need to maintain standards.

Don't - be afraid to ask the learner for further evidence or further learning if necessary

Feedback

Providing constructive feedback on positive areas and areas to develop is an important part of assessment.

It is one way in which people learn but it must be done in a supportive, honest and fair way.

Try, where possible to be overall positive – consider two or three positive statements for every negative and if you can, start and finish with a positive

Feedback

In addition:

- follow up in writing so that instructions, directions or suggestions are clear
- concentrate on the behaviour, not the person;
- allow time for questions and discussion;
- use open questions and active listening;
- think about the venue;
- ensure both parties have time for the feedback
- be aware of your tone of voice, facial expression and gesture



What Next

What Next

To validate Module 25 (NAA) you will need to

- demonstrate an understanding of the Nights Away Permit Scheme, particularly the validation process,
- and have made one recommendation for the award of Nights Away Permit



Somerset Adult Training

If you have any questions on this material which supports your learning after completion of your Workbook or Course attendance (Module 25 Nights Away), contact your Training Adviser, your Local Training Manager or Alan Henderson, Deputy County Training Manager at ltm-orange@somersetscouts.org.uk