

# ANCHORS AWARDS





# RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

It is important that participation in the programme is recognised and rewarded and there are a number of ways this can be achieved. It is not intended that the programme has a formal 'awards' time, but that children and young people gain recognition for their participation in the programme as a whole.

## AWARDS

The table below gives information about the award scheme and the number of activities from each of the 6 Activity Areas required for each award. There is no minimum requirement in terms of time for a single activity to be completed, but that members fully participate in the chosen activity.

All the awards involve completing a minimum number of activities in each Activity Area as well as 4 additional 'Free Choice' activities from across the Activity Areas encouraging a balanced and varied programme, but also providing some local flexibility. With the 'Free Choice' activities children may choose which additional activities they wish to do, perhaps those they enjoy most, or which give them new challenges. Companies may also decide to concentrate on particular activities that reflect the skills of the leaders, equipment available or meeting space.

Ages		4/5 YEARS	5/6 YEARS	6/7 YEARS	7/8 YEARS
SCHOOL YEARS	England / Wales	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3
	Scotland	n/a	P1	P2	P3
	Northern Ireland	P1	P2	P3	P4
	Republic of Ireland	Junior Infant	Senior Infant	1 <sup>st</sup> C	2 <sup>nd</sup> C
 Get Active	2	3	3	3	
 Get Adventurous	2	3	3	3	
 Get Creative	2	3	3	3	
 Get into the Bible	2	3	3	3	
 Get Involved	2	3	3	3	
 Get Learning	2	3	3	3	
<b>FREE CHOICE</b> (from any of the Activity Areas)	4	4	4	4	
<b>TOTAL Number of Activities</b> (total activities to be completed for each award)	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>ACTIVITY AWARDS</b>	<b>Yellow Activity Badge</b> (optional)*	<b>Green Activity Badge</b> (core)	<b>Blue Activity Badge</b> (core)	<b>Red Activity Badge</b> (core)	

\* Yellow Award in Anchors age group is optional and only where a child starts at age 4.

## CORE AWARDS

The core awards for the Anchors age group are the Green, Blue and Red awards, with an optional Yellow award for those working with 4-year olds (i.e. the session in which they attain their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday). Those starting in the session in which they attain at their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday (or later) should start working towards the core awards, and therefore the Green award to enable them to achieve the Red award in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a member.

## MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The Membership Award is to be presented to new members once they have completed one activity in at least 3 Activity Areas and being introduced/inducted into the age group. Ideas for how members are introduced/inducted into the age group will be provided through 'Essentials' Activity Cards which will be sent out alongside the termly resources, although the actual requirements for this are for the local Company to decide.

## TEAM LEADER

A Team Leader badge is available and can be used within the age group and awarded to a member who is taking responsibility for a team or group. There are no set requirements for how this badge or role is used and it is very much for the local Company to decide.

## OTHER WAYS OF RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

In addition to awards, children could be presented with a certificate after reaching the midway point for each award or for completing an individual activity. Certificates could also be awarded for other things including taking part in an event, good attendance, being a good friend, helping out etc. Stickers will also be available for this age group and could be awarded for the completion of each award activity. Certificates, stickers and other resources are available from BB Supplies. A progression certificate is also available for when members move up from one section to the next.

## AWARDS IN OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMME

There should not be a formal awards time in the programme as children complete the awards through participating in the programme, so it is more about identifying which parts of the programme will be recorded under the award scheme. Remember, the work of the section should be programme led, not awards driven.

## ASSESSING ACTIVITIES

There are no set levels of attainment for the activities within the award scheme, these are gained by a child participating in particular activities; no external controls are to be applied. The level of achievement will vary for each individual according to their ability and age. During a child's time in the age group their level of skill is likely to vary greatly. The onus is on the leaders to ensure that they are fully participating and developing at an appropriate pace.

## LATE JOINERS

Children should participate in activities appropriate to their age and ability. Ideally, a new member would join in with their peer group on the activity currently being worked towards, but would gain the first of the core Activity Awards and work through these in order.

## WEARING THE AWARDS

The awards are metal with a pin-on fastening. The awards are placed on the armband as set out (see **leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/programme** for the up to date armband layout). When members move up to the next age group, they carry the highest award gained up to the next age group and continue to wear that on their armband

## PRESENTING AWARDS

Some Companies present awards as soon as they are gained; others choose to present them at a parents' or awards night or at a Church Parade service. Leaders should remember that the award scheme is planned to cover the three years that a child is in the age group and only one of the core awards (green, blue, red) should be presented in any single session.

## RECORD KEEPING

You can keep track of progress with awards for all members using the functionality within Online Brigade Manager, from there you can record completion of individual activities and the system will let you know when an award is due. Parents/Carers and other leaders can also view the badge progress through OBM.

Alternatively, you can download a record card template which can be printed out and used to record progress.

## TRANSITIONING FROM THE OLD ANCHORS PROGRAMME

The transition in terms of awards should be straightforward as there is no change to the overall structure of the awards scheme. There has been an increase in the number of activities which are required to be completed for each award and this is linked to the increase in the Activity Areas (formerly Programme Zones) from 5 to 6.

It is recommended that leaders make the transition from the old award scheme to the new award scheme at the end or beginning of a session. Awards for the old programme will continue to be stocked by BB Supplies to allow for a transition over a 3-year period.

An optional badge for those working with 4-year olds has been introduced in response to feedback received from leaders working with younger members; to provide an award for each year within the Anchors age group.

The highest award gained in the Anchors age group has been changed from the Blue award to the Red award, fitting in with the Anchors identity. This award will move on with the child when they transfer to the Juniors age group.