

# #BBatHOME Camp Leaders Guidance



This year, thousands of children and young people will be missing out on the opportunity of going on a BB camp, residential weekend or night away. Help to fill that gap by running a #BBatHOME Camp instead. Giving members the opportunity to still take on challenges, have fun, make memories and strengthen their relationships at BB. A good opportunity to help with retaining members for the new session.

## What is #BBatHOME Camp?

We have produced a pack of 12 activities ideal for re-creating a camp at home. These activities have been designed for Junior, Company & Senior age groups. BB groups are encouraged to use some of these activities, alongside ideas of their own, to build a two day #BBatHOME camp programme.

The activity cards have been produced in the same format as #BBatHOME, meaning members and parents/carers will be familiar with the format and confident in running the activities. The #BBatHOME Camp has been designed to be run over 2 days, potentially when your group would have been at camp or on a residential. However, this format could also be used as part of your group's relaunch in September, or even as part of the Autumn 2020 programme, where you may have normally offered a sleepover.

## How do I Run a #BBatHOME Camp?

### Virtual and/or At Home Activities

Activities have been designed to be delivered either virtually on Zoom or as activities taken on by members at home. The sample programme shows a mixture of virtual and at home activities, however your programme can be all virtual, mixed, or all at home activities. Running some activities virtually via Zoom can be a good way to increase engagement and make it more interactive for your young people. Some guidance on how to run each activity virtually can be found further down the guidance sheet.

For help and support running virtual sessions, including how to get set up, things to consider and safeguarding advice please head to [boys-brigade.org.uk/virtual-sessions/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/virtual-sessions/).

### Planning

Start off by bringing your leaders together for a virtual meeting to discuss the possibility of running a #BBatHOME Camp and how you may go about doing it. You'll need to think about when you want to do it, how you wish to run it, what activities you can offer and splitting up the responsibilities.

### Involve Young People

Make sure you involve your members in the planning. Ask them which activities they would like included in the programme and if they have any ideas of their own. You won't have time to run all of the activities, so you'll need to pick just the activities that appeal to your group the most.

### Create Your Programme

Check out the sample programme to see how a programme can be created, then use the blank version to produce your own programme to share with your group. If using virtual sessions, think about which activities these would work best for and when in the programme. Not everything needs to be done as part of a virtual session. Starting and ending the day with a virtual session, with a check-in during the day might be one way to do it as the young people can then share how they have got on with activities throughout the day.

### Communicating to Parents & Members

You'll need to send out your camp invite, programme planner, activities and any other information to your parents. This could be done via email or post. Encourage members to respond letting you know if they will be joining in, giving you an opportunity to follow up and encourage any you don't hear back from. An editable programme and leaflet/poster can be found on the #BBatHOME Camp page.

## **Camp Pack & Resources**

Whilst most of the activities have been designed to use equipment found in an average home, you could help to ensure your #BBatHOME Camp is accessible to all by producing a 'Camp Pack', which can be delivered to members. This might include a copy of the programme, some of the resources needed for the activities you are running and a couple of treats.

## **Pictures, Videos and Social Media**

Many of the activities encourage interaction between members and the BB group, by sending in pictures and videos of the activities. Interaction should be via a parent/carer. Emails, text messages, WhatsApp groups and social media pages can all be used to do this. You could set up a parents WhatsApp, Facebook group especially for your #BBatHOME Camp for them to send photos/videos and for you to post reminders about activities and encouragements.

A reminder of guidance for leaders for contacting members and the use of social media as part of #BBatHOME can be found here - [https://boys-brigade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/guidance\\_leaders.pdf](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/guidance_leaders.pdf)

## **Recognising Achievement**

Competitions and awards often form part of a camp programme and are a great way of encouraging children and young people to get involved. Consider how you could recognise achievement as part of your #BBatHOME Camp.

## **Teams / Tents**

Often camps will have young people split into tents or teams, with opportunities to work towards points and competitions. You could split the group into teams, with them achieving points during the #BBatHOME Camp for their team. Alternatively, you could award points to individuals, with each member having their own tally of points.

## **Competitions**

A number of the activities in the pack include a competitive element, allowing groups to award points and prizes for those activities. At the end of the programme you may then have team winners and individual winners of different activities. These prizes could be awarded as part of an end of Camp awards ceremony (more details on this can be found under 'additional activity ideas').

## **Nights Away Badge & Certificates**

Use this opportunity to award The Boys' Brigade's Nights Away badge or use the night to help members reach their next nights away badge target. Night away badges are available from BB supplies. We have also produced a #BBatHOME Camp certificate which can be used to help recognise achievement.

## **Going Virtual**

### **How do I run the #BBatHOME Camp Activities Virtually?**

Below you will find all you need to know to run the activities virtually:

**Campfire** - We would suggest that the young people build and light their fires ready to join your virtual session on Zoom. The activity would need to be run outside, so would be reliant on members having portable devices (mobile phones) and outdoor space with WIFI/data. Adult supervision from parents/carers is essential.

**Campfire Snacks & Games** – Both activity cards could be run virtually. Instructions could be provided for making the snacks, for young people to follow, although young people would need to gather equipment in advance. Campfire games and activities could then be run by a leader over zoom, as per the ideas on the activity card. Again, this would rely on members having portable devices and outdoor space with WIFI. Adult supervision around the fire from parents/carers is essential.

**Camp Sports / Minute to Win It** – Ask young people to have the equipment ready at the start of the virtual session. You could have all young people doing the same activity at the same time, with the quickest to finish being the winner. Alternatively, you could split them into teams, with young people going head to head over Zoom, representing their team for points.

**Out & About Photo Challenge** – Set the challenge and then give young people a time they need to get back onto Zoom. When they return the group can go through the challenges they have managed to complete, ticking off their points and voting on some of the best photos for bonus points.

**Talent Show** – Run the talent show on Zoom. Young people should practise their act beforehand and then be invited one at a time to perform their talent for the rest of the group to watch. Use the ‘spotlight video’ function to make the performers window expand, so everyone gets a good view. After all the performances, have a vote to crown your talent show winner.

**Bake Off** – Hold a bake-off masterclass, by bringing the group together to bake over Zoom. You could talk everyone through making a basic sponge cake, with the group then challenged to turn that basic cake into a showstopper (by decorating) by the end of the day.

**Water Games** – Run the challenges as per the card, with young people either racing the clock or going head to head against one of the other members. This activity would rely on members having portable devices and outdoor space with WIFI. An additional idea could be water trivia, where young people answer quiz style questions. Correct answers get a point for their team, incorrect answers get a cup of water over their heads.

## Additional Activity Ideas

The ideas provided in the #BBatHOME Camp pack are there for you to pick and choose from to create a camp suitable for your young people and their interests. However, our ideas are there just to get you started – there are other great activity ideas which you could use as part of your camp.

Are there things you would normally do whilst away, that you’d like to include in your programme? Make sure to involve your young people and ask what they would like to do.

Here are a few extra ideas:

**Worship** – Camps are often a great opportunity to explore the Christian Faith over the course of a few days. Add in a time of worship or reflection into your camp programme. This could be as a thought for the day, an object lesson or a more detailed talk and discussion. Take a look back at the ‘Get into the Bible’ cards from #BBatHOME for some activities / discussion points which could be used. Could you involve your Chaplain/Minister in doing this?

**Quiz Night** – Bring the Camp together for a quiz over Zoom. Think of some interesting and interactive quiz rounds to test out the group’s brain power. Points could then be allocated to individuals or they could be added together to make team scores. If you have enough leaders, you might want to use breakout rooms for teams to discuss answers. You will find some ready to use quiz rounds on the Virtual Sessions page at [boys-brigade.org.uk/virtual-sessions/](https://boys-brigade.org.uk/virtual-sessions/)

**Camp Awards** – End your #BBatHOME Camp with some awards and spend time looking back at the highlights of your Camp. Awards could include activity winners and overall winners as well as fun awards such as funniest moment, soggiest bottom (bake off) or recognising any mishaps. Awards could be posted through doors in sealed envelopes (so they can’t be seen) before the awards start or they could be delivered to young people afterwards.

**Make it Your Own** – Introduce elements or activities which your young people would recognise from camps you have been on in the past. This might be things like tent inspection, challenges, sports or silly games. Ask your young people if there are any activities they normally do, which they would like to see converted to #BBatHOME Camp.