

Leader Interview Scripts

Alicia

The first thing I notice is the lack of variety within the activities. Over the course of a 6-week programme, we would always try to run a balanced programme, including all 6 activity areas. This programme just looks to focus on three activity areas and ignores the other three. Also, by having the same three activity areas in the same order every week, this can make the programme very predictable and stale. A predictable and stale programme usually leads to members getting bored and leaving the group. By mixing up the activity areas, ensuring a wide range of activities and keeping the programme fresh, we've found we have good retention of our members.

One real positive is the inclusion of a themed night. My group love theme nights and they are a great way to keep a programme varied and interesting. We try to run them as often as we can, and always try to use the themed programme activity cards we are provided with by HQ.

The final thing I've noticed is the Get Active element always seems to be the same each week. This seems a bit lazy and predictable and can result in members getting bored. I try to include a wide variety of games and sports, helping to ensure all interests are catered for and our programme remains fresh.

James

It's great to see that the leaders have put together a plan, which details what is happening each week – Good planning really is crucial for a successful group. However one thing I did spot is that not all the boxes have been filled in, leaving some weeks without an equipment list or a leader to run the activity. From my experience, when that happens it often means that things don't work as well. Everyone just assumes it's someone else's responsibility, meaning no-one picks it up. If this was my programme plan, I'd make sure everything was planned for.

It also looks like all the running of the activities is sitting with one person. It's great that one leader is so keen, but this can mean that other leaders aren't being utilised and having an opportunity to share their skills and be as involved as they might want to be. I've found that if leaders aren't being used to their full potential, then they end up getting bored or don't feel like they are making a difference and can end up drifting away. A good programme relies on leaders, so I've found it really important to make sure all leaders are involved and feel valued.

Cameron

There do seem to be some really good activities within the programme, providing the group with an opportunity to be challenged and have fun. However at the same time, some of the activities don't seem age appropriate. A few of the activities are either a little bit young or a little bit old for that age group. The problem with running activities which are not age appropriate is that those taking part will lose interest quickly and not enjoy their time at Boys' Brigade. If this happens often, then it's likely that members will stop coming to BB, which is obviously something we never want to happen.

Maybe to help with this, the leaders should involve their members in the planning. This would straight away help to make sure the activities are age appropriate. How we involve our members in having a say varies from one age group to the next, but the principle of giving children and young people a voice remains the same and it is a really important part of programme planning in my view.