

Shirevoice 26

What is Shirevoice?

Shirevoice is Scouts Hereford and Worcester’s annual youth forum, a space for feedback on activities, idea generation, and sharing awareness of opportunities. It gives young people an opportunity to shape their own Scouting experience and help our County deliver the strongest, most engaging, programme possible. And it brings young people from all our districts together, strengthening connections and encouraging collaboration.

Who was there in 2026?

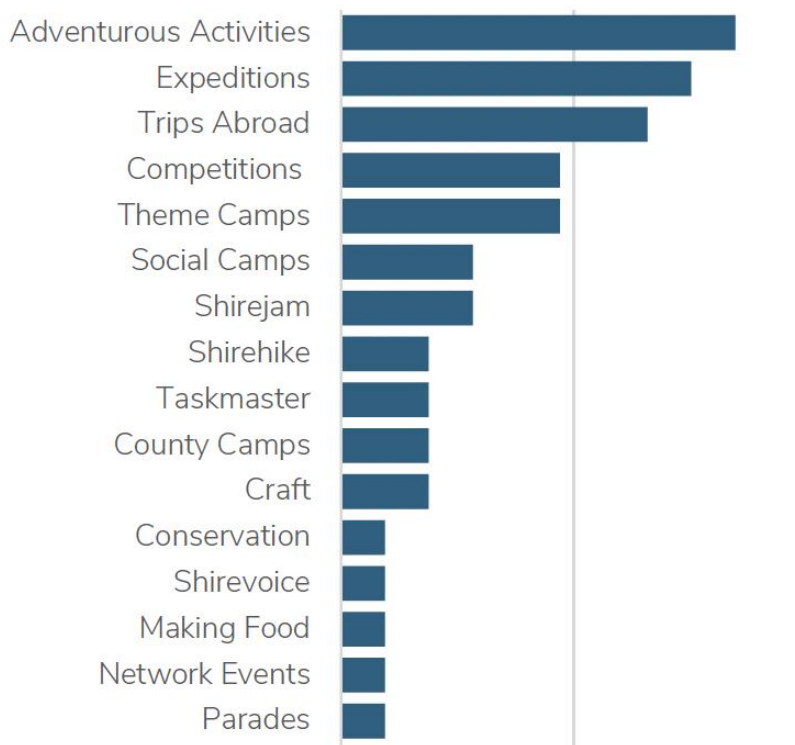
This year 50 young people attended. Of these, 57% were Scouts, 34% were Explorers and 9% were Network.

Workshop 1: What do you think about....?

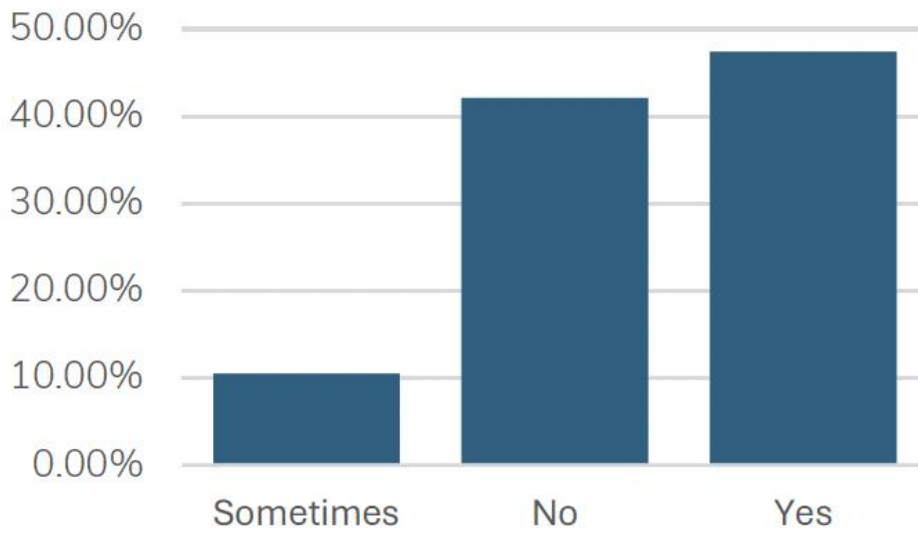
Facilitated by a Post-it wall, participants were asked their opinions on a variety of topics, some serious and some more light-hearted.

Here are some of the responses:

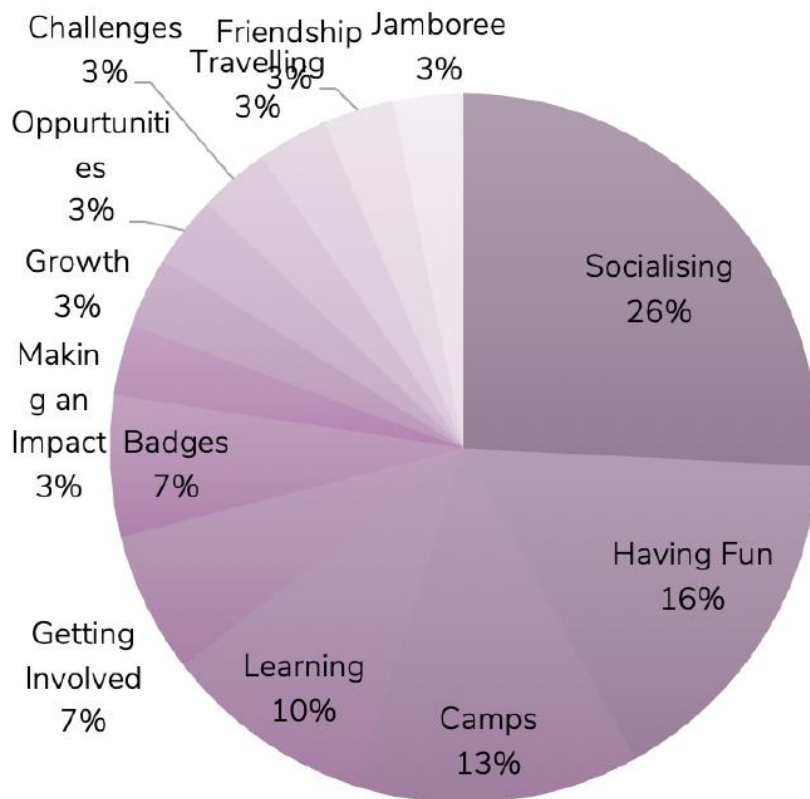
What activities would you like to do more of:



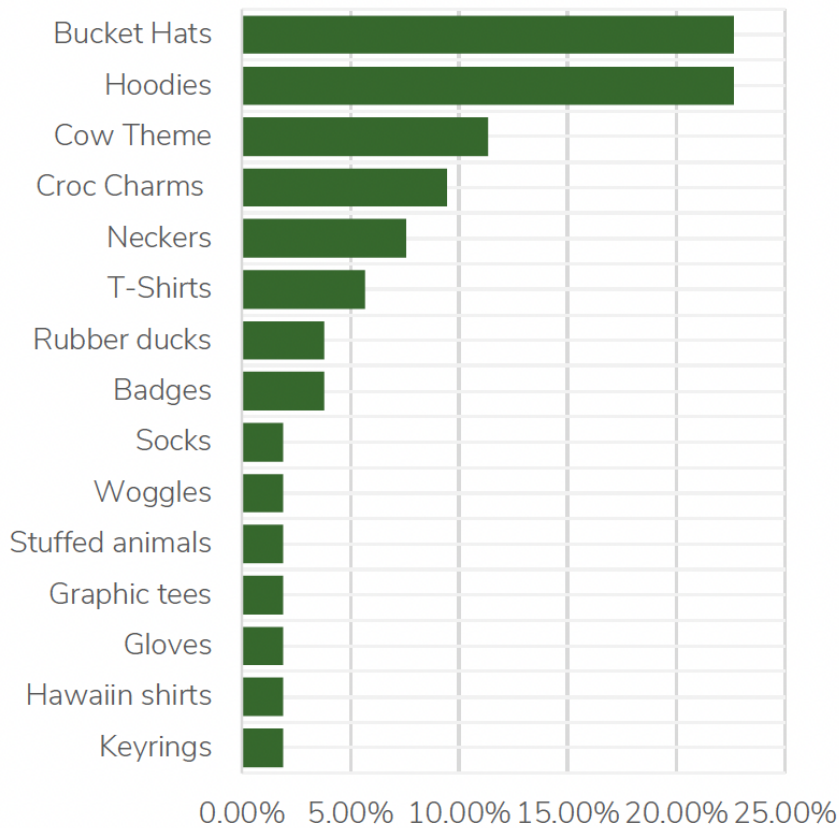
Do you feel heard in your Scout Group?



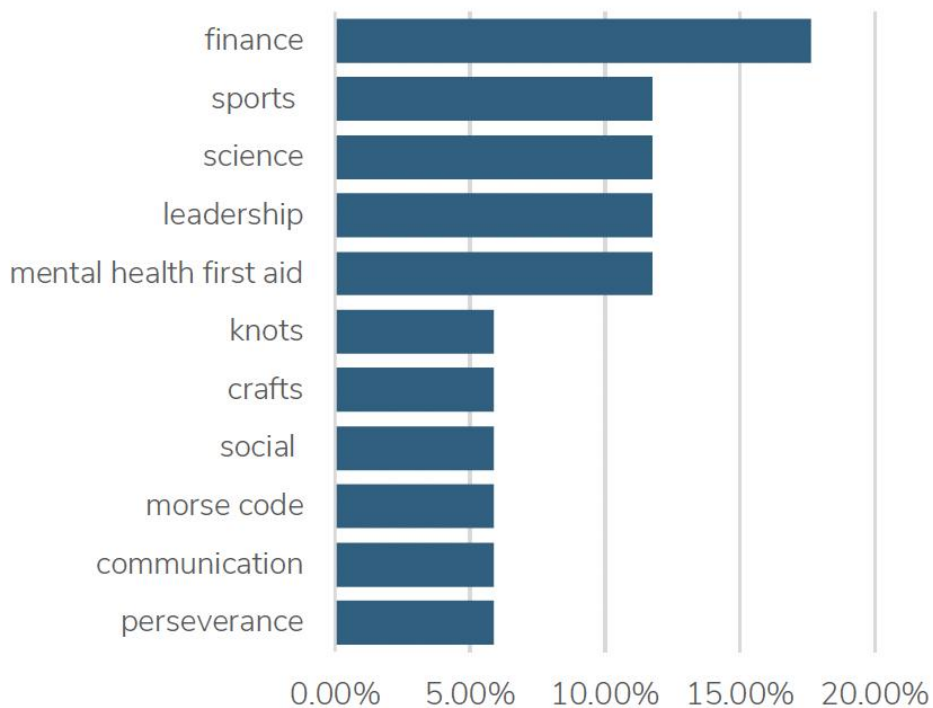
What is most important to you in Scouting?



What kinds of merchandise would you like to buy at events:



What skills would you like to learn in Scouts?



Workshop 2: Permit Scheme for young people

This workshop helped demystify some of the rules around activities and clarify how the permit system works for young people. Participants were also able to practice risk assessments through scenarios.



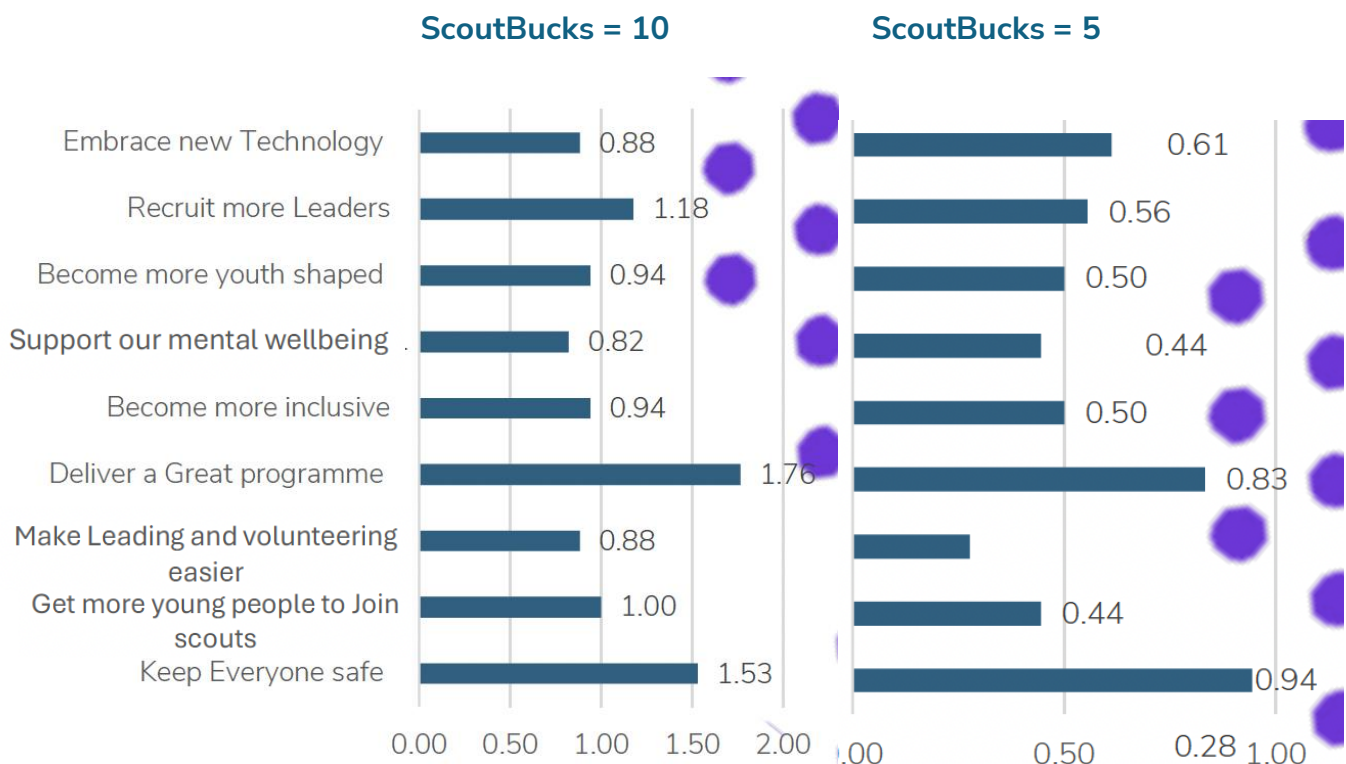
Some key learning:

- Young people value mentors who let them learn from their mistakes
- The scheme isn't as clear as it could be to young people
- Exam-style assessment is not popular
- Repetitive form-filling and recording of activities are off-putting
- Digital permits are preferred
- Practicing activities can be a challenge for younger members who don't drive

Workshop 3: How should money/effort be shared out? (Scout Bucks)

Inspired by a national forum idea, participants were asked how they would spend a budget and expend effort in volunteering - if it was up to them.

Then, as in the real world, the available money and effort were halved. Would this change the outcome? The results are below.



Workshop 4: Doing the Top Awards



One of the missions of Youth Leads is to promote Top Awards to the youth membership. This last workshop encouraged participants to discuss all the schemes available to them, including the YouShape badge, Scouting Top Awards, DofE, and Scouts of the World, and to look into whether they would like to participate in future.

Discussion was encouraged by nerf guns. Participants aimed at pictures of the awards to promote discussion – this proved very popular!

What next?

Output from this is being shared with the County Team and wider membership.

Thank you

The County Youth Lead Team would like to thank all the participants for their input and other members of the County Team for helping to facilitate and support this event.

