

Why is Keswick ConVenture important to the Boys' Brigade?

We feel that there are two main areas where many BB companies are not delivering as well as they could. This is affecting the BB's ability to retain Seniors and develop them into leaders which, in turn, affects its ability to grow. The first area is the provision of true adventure activities. We believe that the Scout Movement's phenomenal growth since the new millennium is partly due to its re-emphasis on adventure activities in its Explorer Units; this has enabled the Scouts to retain their older youth members and develop many of them into new leaders. There are, of course, other factors, but we believe this is an important element of their success which, if the BB is to grow, it must emulate. The second area is one that is unique to the BB as a Christian organisation with its object of advancing Christ's Kingdom. In general, we have not been very successful at winning our older members for Christ and disciplining them (and our younger leaders also) in their faith. We need to improve both areas if we are to create the next generation of effective leaders to grow the Brigade. Keswick ConVenture aims to provide an opportunity to address both deficiencies and we hope it might be the first of many events that combine adventure and spirituality.



What is Keswick ConVenture?

Keswick ConVenture is an opportunity to participate in a wide range of adventure activities in the daytime and to attend one of the country's main Christian festivals in the evening.

When and Where will it take place?

It will take place during the second Keswick Convention week from Friday 20 to Wednesday 25 July 2018. It will be based at a campsite to be set up on the playing field at Braithwaite (2.5 miles from Keswick). The campsite has toilets and showers and we will have the use of part of the Braithwaite Institute for cooking and eating.

Who is it for?

It is for individual or groups of BB leaders and ex-members as well as Seniors (15-18). Leaders can come on their own, but Seniors must be accompanied by a BB leader. We are particularly keen to attract ex-members of the BB who are now at university or work and who risk losing contact with the BB. All participants must provide suitable clothes for the activities, including good waterproofs, a daysack and sturdy boots. Participants must also provide and pitch their own tents.

How much will it cost?

It is hard to predict costs at this stage, as we don't know how many volunteer instructors and how many bought-in professional instructors will be required. Last year, with a 3-day programme, manned exclusively by our own instructors, the charge was £50 per person, including food. For this year's larger 4-day programme we will aim to keep the cost below £100 per person, including food.

How do I get more information?

More information can be obtained from <http://bbmc.boys-brigade.org.uk/conventure> or by emailing p.tarr@btinternet.com.



Keswick ConVenture

The Keswick Convention with adventure activities



THE BOYS' BRIGADE 
> the adventure begins here

Keswick ConVenture

Where in the UK can you enjoy exciting mountain or water-based activities in the day and experience inspiring worship and challenging, faith-building teaching with thousands of others at one of the country's main Christian festivals? The only answer to this question is in the **Lake District** during the **Keswick Convention**.

Over the years, a few members of the BB Mountaineering Club have enjoyed several days of walking, scrambling and climbing on the Lakeland fells followed by evenings of worship and teaching at the Convention. The offer of exciting adventure and spiritual activities in a beautiful location is a compelling combination for BB leaders, ex-members and groups of Seniors.

In order for other BB members to benefit from this experience, we conducted a pilot in 2017 with a group of four leaders and eight Seniors from 2nd Reading, offering kayaking, rockclimbing, abseiling, fell walking and scrambling as well as the Convention. It was highly successful and we hope to organise a larger and longer event this year.

Participants will be responsible for providing and pitching their own tents, transport and sharing cooking (if we cannot find volunteers for this). Activities will be organised by qualified leaders from BBMC and BBCC and other BB leaders or professional instructors.

As well as enjoying the activities on offer, participants can develop new skills or practise existing skills (such as paddling and navigation) to help prepare themselves to gain some outdoor qualifications.

Volunteers needed

To offer a wide range of outdoor activities, we will need to find a number of volunteers with current outdoor instructor qualifications (such as ML, MIA, SPA, MBLA as well as BCU and RYA qualifications). We also need to find volunteers to help prepare and cook food. If you have any of the above qualifications, and can help instruct or can offer help with catering on one or two days (or more), either at the weekend and/or weekdays, please contact us. Similarly, if you have any questions or want to register an interest in participating in Keswick ConVenture, please also make contact with us.