



EXPLORERS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SANDSTONE SCOUTS

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The Scout Movement is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the world, with over 28 million members in 216 countries and territories, including 400,000 young people in the UK.

Its clear purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Scouting aims to help young people to develop as active members of their community who are self-reliant, caring, responsible and who show commitment.

It does this by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, guided by adult leadership.

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by working in partnership with adults. They do this by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences, exploring the outdoors, participating in teams and taking responsibility.

Scouting is open to all young people aged 6 to 25 of every faith and background. There are also plenty of opportunities for adults to become involved as Leaders, Assistants or Administrators.

For more information on the Scout Movement visit: <http://www.scouts.org.uk>

EXPLORER SCOUTS

Explorer Scouts belong to the fourth Section in the Scouting family. Young people can join Explorer Scouts at age 14 and they move to the next Section, Scout Network, at age 18. They can also become adult Leaders at 18 if they wish to do so.

SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW

Explorer Scouts are expected to understand and make a Promise and to understand and follow a Law.

The Explorer Scout Promise is: "On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people, and to keep the Scout Law." (*Other forms of the Promise are available*)

The Scout Law is:

1. A Scout is to be **trusted**.
2. A Scout is **loyal**.
3. A Scout is **friendly and considerate**.
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide **family** of Scouts.
5. A Scout has **courage** in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of **time** and is careful of **possessions and property**.
7. A Scout has **self-respect** and **respect** for others.

WILDFIRE EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

The Wildfire Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) is based at the Scout HQ on Goldford Lane, Bickerton and, like its affiliated Scout Group, draws its members from Tattenhall, Bickerton and the surrounding areas.

The Unit has a maximum of 24 members, including boys and girls. It meets from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm most Wednesday evenings during the school terms of Bishop Heber High School. Trips and other events are organised in addition.

The Scout HQ is located in 4 acres of enclosed private grounds (mostly wooded) on Bickerton Hill. This gives us direct access to the whole of the public access land in addition, and we make every effort to be outdoors on the hill whenever daylight and the weather permit this.

JOINING THE WILDFIRE EXPLORERS

At present the 1st Sandstone Scout Group has 2 Beaver Scout Colonies, 2 Cub Packs and one Scout Troop. All vacancies in the ESU are, therefore, normally taken by their Scouts moving up to Explorers as they reach 14 years old.

If you apply for your child to join the ESU without having previously been a Scout your child will be placed on our reserve list and will be allocated a place as soon as we have a vacancy appropriate to his or her age. Please remember that as we have to give priority to our Scouts who have reached Explorer age we cannot guarantee that a place will become available unless you, or an adult associated with your child, volunteers to join us as an adult Leader.

PROGRAMME

The Explorer programme is based on a 4 year cycle but is designed around the needs and preferences of its members. It aims to provide the opportunity for all the Explorers to earn the Chief Scout's Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards before they move on.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

Trips and other events are arranged throughout the year. Some of these are arranged by the County or District Headquarters and others are arranged by the Sandstone Scout Group.

FAITH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scout Association is an open Association. Whilst requiring all Members to make a Promise the Scout Association does not identify itself with any one religion, nor does it require its members to belong to a faith. Appropriate forms of the Promise are available to those of any, or no, faith.

The Scout Association is not directly and immediately concerned with the religious education of its Members. That responsibility is with the families to which the Members belong. However, the Purpose of the Scout Association includes 'to promote the spiritual potential of young people'. This responsibility is a fundamental part of the Association

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The current subscription is £80 per year, payable by 31 July for the following year. Those who join at the February half term only pay a half subscription for that year.

All Leaders and other helpers give their time free of charge. The subscription pays for the costs of National Scout, County and District HQs (which provide support and facilities used by local Scout Groups including camp sites and insurance) and of the Sandstone Scout Group (maintenance of the Scout Hut and grounds, insurance, fuel & water, badges, equipment, etc)

To allow children to attend a few sessions before deciding whether they want to join the first subscription will be refunded if a child decides not to join before the day they are invested as Scouts (normally the 4th week after starting).

UNIFORM

The only essential items of uniform are a long sleeved khaki shirt (available on-line or from the shop in the Chester District HQ) worn, on formal occasions, with any suitable dark coloured trousers.

The on-line shop is at: <http://www.scoutshops.com/> and uniform can also be purchased from the shop in the District HQ in Chester; the profits on sales from both of these outlets are retained within the Association. Please do not purchase uniform from any other source; these frequently stock out of date styles.

ADULT LEADERS AND HELPERS

The Scout Movement is a voluntary organisation and all adults give their time free of charge. The whole Movement, including the Scouts, cannot operate without adults prepared to help.

Meetings in the Scout Hut can only be held if there is at least a qualified Leader and at least one other adult present

If you, or anyone you know, can help on either a regular or an occasional basis, please let us know on the Application Form and we will contact you with further details.

1. Leaders: the qualified uniformed leaders who are responsible for running the activities
2. Occasional Helpers: who are prepared to assist the Leaders
3. Committee Members: who look after the administration of the Group

If you volunteer to become a Leader your child will be allocated a place in the Group even if we would otherwise have no vacancy.