



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>

SCOUTS

Scouts belong to the third Section in the Scouting family. Young people can join Scouts at age 10 and they move to the next Section, Explorer Scouts, at age 14.

SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW

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

The 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.

1ST SANDSTONE SCOUT GROUP

The 1st Sandstone Scout Group is based at the Scout HQ on Goldford Lane, Bickerton and draws its members from Tattenhall, Bickerton and the surrounding areas.

It has Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer sections and young people normally join as Beaver Scouts and progress through the Sections.

1ST SANDSTONE SCOUTS

The Scout Troop has a maximum of 41 members, including boys and girls. The members are organised into four Patrols.

The Troop meets from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm every Tuesday evening during the school terms of Bickerton and Tattenhall Primary Schools and Bishop Heber High School. Trips and other events are organised in addition.

The Scout Hut 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 1ST SANDSTONE SCOUTS

At present we have 2 Beaver Scout Colonies and 2 Cub Packs but only one Scout Troop. All vacancies in the Scout Troop are, therefore, normally taken by our Cubs moving up to Scouts as they reach 10 years old.

If you apply for your child to join Scouts without having previously been a Cub 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 Cub Scouts who have reached Scout 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 programme is based on a 4 year cycle and is designed to give the opportunity to all Scouts to earn the Chief Scout's Gold Award before they move up to Explorers. Along the way they will have the opportunity to earn Activity Badges and Challenge Badges. The programme is based on several main topic areas and each of these has a Challenge Badge associated with it which Scouts receive when they have completed all the sections in that topic. A Scout who earns all Challenge Badges receives the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

The overall aim of the programme is to ensure that all the Scouts make new friends, try new things, make progress, work together in groups, keep the Cub Promise and, above all, have fun

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 green 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, although in practice at least three other adults are necessary so that each Patrol can be supervised by an adult. Meetings outside the Scout Hut, including trips, require a qualified Leader and at least one adult for each 12 Scouts.

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

Please note that by applying for your child to join the Group you will agree to help as an Occasional Helper (OH) in the Scout Hut at least once or twice per term on a rota basis.

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.