



## 1 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.

It does this by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership. The programme is based on the Scouting Values - Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation – which are included at a level to which the young people can relate.

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by working in partnership with adults. They do this by taking part in a wide 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>

## 2 BEAVER SCOUTS

Beaver Scouts belong to the first and youngest Section in the Scouting family. Young people can join Beaver Scouts at 6 and they move to the next Section, Cub Scouts, when they are about 8 years old.

Easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts, Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They usually meet together once a week in a Beaver Scout Colony.

## 3 BEAVER SCOUT PROMISE AND MOTTO

Unlike the Cubs and Scouts the Beaver Scouts are not expected to follow (or understand) a Law. They are, however, required to understand and make a Promise and to understand and observe a Motto.

The Beaver Scout Motto (which is the same for all Scouts) is: "Be Prepared".

The Beaver Scout Promise is: "I Promise to do my best, to be kind and helpful, and to love God". *(Note: other forms of the Promise are available – please ask if you require details)*

## **4 1<sup>ST</sup> SANDSTONE SCOUT GROUP**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sandstone Scout Group is based at the Scout HQ on Goldford Lane, Bickerton and draws its members from Tattenhall, Bickerton, Bickley, Cholmondeley 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 until they are 18 when they can, if they wish, join the team as adult Leaders.

## **5 1<sup>ST</sup> SANDSTONE BEAVER SCOUTS**

The two Beaver Scout Sections (or Colonies) each have about 24 members, including boys and girls. The members are organised into four Lodges (Red, Yellow, Green and Blue). Each Beaver Scout wears a woggle corresponding to his or her Lodge colour.

Beaver Scouts do not take on permanent leadership roles but are expected to develop a pride in their own Lodge and to help newer or younger members.

The Beaver Colonies meet from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm every Wednesday or Thursday evening during the school terms of Bickerton and Tattenhall Primary Schools. Trips and other events are organised in addition. (Cubs currently meet on Mondays, Scouts on Tuesdays, and Explorers on Wednesdays).

Our Scout HQ stands in 4 acres of private woodland with direct access to the whole of the public access land on Bickerton Hill, and we make every effort to be outdoors on the hill whenever daylight and the weather permit this.

## **6 JOINING THE BEAVER COLONY**

Children are normally invited to join from the waiting list at the start of each new school year and after the spring half term once they are 6. They are expected to attend all four weekly meetings after being invited to join to see whether or not they enjoy what we do. Please bear in mind that from October to March much of our activity is indoors although whenever possible we like to stay outdoors on Bickerton Hill.

You and your child must both agree to ensure that your child will:

1. attend all weekly meetings, illness and family emergencies excepted (if your child does not attend regularly he/she may be asked to leave in order to make room for another child who wishes to join)
2. attend the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade at Bickerton

In applying for your child to join, and each summer when you apply to renew the membership for a further year, you agree to this attendance code.

Your child will fully join the Beaver Colony and be invested as a Beaver Scout when he or she:

1. has attended at least 4 meetings and decided to join
2. has got to know the Leaders and other members
3. has found out about the ceremonies, traditions and activities of the Colony
4. knows and understands the Beaver Scout Promise
5. knows and understands the Beaver Scout Motto, Sign and Handshake
6. knows what to do at their Investiture and the meaning of the badges they will receive
7. has a general knowledge of the family of Scouts, worldwide scouting and Scout history
8. has the required uniform

## 7 INVESTITURE

The Investiture of a Beaver Scout is an important occasion, and it is important that the Beaver Scout understands this. On being invested the new Beaver Scout becomes a member of the worldwide Scout Movement and makes a Promise which they will be expected to keep.

At their Investiture they will receive:

1. their Scout Movement membership badge (which is worn by every Scout in the world)
2. the Cheshire County and Chester District badge, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandstone Group badge
3. their scarf (necker) in the Sandstone Group colours
4. a woggle showing the colour of their Lodge
5. a Certificate of Investiture (which includes the text of the Promise they have made)
6. a Beaver Scout Log Book in which they can record the badges they earn

Please make every attempt to attend the Investiture of your child to emphasize the importance of this first step.

## 8 UNIFORM

The only essential items of uniform are a long sleeved turquoise sweatshirt, onto which the Beaver Scout's badges are sewn as they are earned, and a polo neck shirt worn underneath it. They are worn with any suitable trousers and shoes. On formal occasions (such as Remembrance Sunday) black trousers/skirts and shoes must be worn. Other uniform items are available but are optional.

These can be purchased on-line, or from the shop in the Chester District Headquarters. We recommend that you only buy from these sources; other shops often sell old styles of uniform. We also recommend that you do not purchase hooded sweatshirts – the hood can present a safety hazard in our wooded environment.

The on-line shop is at: <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/> and the Chester District Scout Shop is at the Scout HQ on Weston Grove, Chester (open Thursdays 1900 – 2000)

## 9 BEHAVIOUR

Beaver Scouts are normally aged 6 or 7 and are not expected to be as smart or well disciplined as soldiers on parade. They will, however, be expected to maintain a standard appropriate to their age and in particular to:

1. be on time for the Flag Break (opening ceremony) which means arriving by 5.55 pm
2. take pride in their uniform and appearance
3. take pride in their Lodge and do their best to make their Lodge the "best" Lodge
4. stand silent and smartly "at ease" or "alert" during the opening and closing ceremonies
5. listen to and follow the instructions they are given, and not talk while they are being spoken to
6. help each other, and in particular help newer members and other members of their own Lodge

## **10 CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Sandstone Beavers have developed a code of conduct themselves, and a copy of this is displayed in the Shout Hut.

One of the main aims of Beaver Scouting is to have fun, and we accept that children having fun can be excited, noisy and boisterous.

Sensible limits, however, allow all the children to have fun in a safe environment and it is sometimes necessary to take a child to one side for a quiet chat or to take "time out".

## **11 REGISTRATION**

We only accept responsibility for children on the register.

Please ensure, therefore, that your child is checked on the register as soon as they arrive for any session or trip and before they do anything else.

## **12 SAFETY**

We take very seriously our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children in our care. We believe that safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all the young people we work with is the responsibility of everyone.

All uniformed adult Leaders have been trained in Child Protection and Safety.

The Scout Association's 'Young People First' code of good practice is published in the form of a pocket size yellow card that all adult Leaders keep with them. This contains information about how to report concerns or allegations of abuse and also a Code of Behavior that all adults are required to follow.

## **13 SPEAKING TO THE LEADERS**

The Leaders will always be happy to speak to parents about anything to do with Scouting. They are, however, usually very busy at the start of, and during, evening sessions. If you do wish to speak to one of the Leaders it would be helpful if you could do so at the end of a session after all, or at least most of, the children have left.

## **14 WATCHING AND ATTENDING**

Parents are always welcome to watch or join in with Beaver Scout activities and you can come into the Scout Hut or watch outdoor activities at any time. Please bear in mind, however, that:

1. sometimes the presence of a parent can be a distraction to a child; as you know your child best we leave this to your discretion
2. if you attend more than once a month, or accompany the young people on trips or activities, current child protection rules require that you complete a DBS check

We hold a families day or an extended evening each summer including presentation of awards, games, a camp fire and barbecue to which all parents are invited. The AGM is usually held during this event, and this provides you with the opportunity to influence the way the Group is run.

## **15 PROGRAMME**

The programme is based on a 2 year cycle and is designed to give the opportunity to all Beaver Scouts to earn the Chief Scout's Bronze Award before they move up to Cubs. Along the way they will have the opportunity to earn Activity Badges and Challenge Badges.

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

## **16 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 Scout Group or the Beaver Section.

Some of these provide the opportunity for Beaver Scouts to qualify for badges which are difficult to arrange locally. Others may provide the opportunity to visit Scout and Cub camps so that Beaver Scouts can see the sort of activities which they will take part in when they move on to the Cubs and Scouts.

These Trips and Events will be published in the weekly email newsletters and on OSM (see below)

## **17 BADGES**

All sections of the Scout Movement recognise a young person's achievements with special badges. Beaver Scouts like to receive badges (probably more than parents like sewing them on) and they act as an incentive by allowing young people to show what they have achieved.

All Beaver Scouts receive the Membership Award at their investiture, and they should all aim to obtain the Chief Scout's Bronze award by the time they leave. (Cubs aim for the Silver Award, Scouts aim for the Gold Award, and Explorers aim for the Platinum and Diamond Awards and the Queen's Scout Award in addition to all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards).

The badges and awards which Beaver Scouts can obtain along the way are listed in the Log Book they are given at their Investiture, and can be explained by any of the Beaver Scout Leaders.

Badges must be sewn onto the uniform sweatshirt in the correct positions. If you're not sure of the correct positions ask a Leader, check in the badge book, or take a look on the web site.

## **18 COMMUNICATION**

Most communication with parents is via email.

A newsletter is sent out by 9.00 am every Tuesday (except during holidays) by email in order to keep parents informed. It will always include details of:

1. what happened at the last meeting
2. what will happen at the next meeting
3. forthcoming trips and other events
4. anything else which the Leaders think parents should know

Please, therefore, check your email as soon as possible after this time.

Our administration is based on a proprietary system - Online Scout Manager (OSM) - to which Leaders have on line secure access. Parents also have access to the records for their own child(ren) and can see details of badges earned and where to sew them onto uniform together with details of the programme and the rota of parent helpers. Parents can also see and update personal details including contact details.

You will receive an invitation to register for access to the system once your child has joined. Please do so as soon as possible after you receive the invitation and check and update any details which are incorrect.

## **19 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The current subscription is £80\* per year, payable by the 31 July prior to the start of the year in September. Those who join at the February half term only pay a half subscription for that year.

*\*This subscription rate assumes that subscriptions will be "Gift Aided" which means that it is worth £100 to us. If you are unwilling or unable to "Gift Aid" the subscription we ask you to consider paying a grossed up subscription of £100 (or £50 if you join in February).*

All Leaders and other helpers give their time free of charge. Half of the subscription pays for the costs of National, County and District Scout HQs (which provide many resources on which we rely including personal insurance) and the remainder covers the costs of the Sandstone Scout Group such as maintenance of the Scout Hut and grounds, insurance, fuel & water, badges, and equipment used by the Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Sections.

To allow children to attend a few sessions before deciding whether they want to join the initial subscription will be refunded if a child decides not to join before the day they are invested as Beaver Scouts (normally the 4th week after starting). We regret that we cannot refund subscriptions if children leave after the 4<sup>th</sup> week.

## **20 INSURANCE**

All Beaver Scouts, those children attending Beaver Scout meetings to see whether they want to join, and adult Leaders are covered under the Scout Association's Personal Accident and Medical Expenses Policy.

## **21 PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The Scout Group and the Leaders need to be able to contact each child's parent or guardian in an emergency, and also need to know about any medical conditions or dietary requirements that a child may have.

Each year you will be asked to check the details held on OSM and you must confirm that this information is correct.

It is important that you let the Leaders know if any of this information changes during the year and that you also update the details on OSM.

## 22 DATA PROTECTION

The Scout Movement in the UK is a membership organisation. To enable it to operate and to communicate with its members it is necessary to maintain records about them.

This will include details of name, address, date of birth, contact telephone numbers, special dietary requirements and medical conditions, and progress through Scouting including badges gained. Information held in our Scout Group may be shared from time to time within Scouting including the Association Headquarters.

Legislation covers the protection and processing of personal data. Adults and young people have the same rights. The statutes cover paper based (as well as computer based) information.

Certain information is classed by the law as 'Sensitive Personal Data'. In a Scouting context this may include information about your son's/daughter's:

- Health (to ensure that we are prepared for medical emergencies it is important that we hold relevant information)
- Disabilities (to ensure a safe integration of your son's/daughter's participation in activities details of any disability need to be known)
- Religious or similar beliefs (this will help us to ensure that we make appropriate arrangements when necessary)
- Racial or ethnic origin (again this will help us ensure that we are sensitive to the cultural needs of our members)

To hold this 'Sensitive Personal Data' we need your explicit consent which you provide by completing the Application Form on joining and the membership renewal form each year thereafter.

All the information will be used only in connection with your son's/daughter's membership of the Scout Movement in the United Kingdom – this will include membership management and communications.

None of the information provided will be passed to any third parties outside the Scout Movement without your prior consent other than information which has to be provided to other organisations in order to allow a child to take part in an event run by that organisation – this is normally name and date of birth (and in some cases addresses or other basic information).

We hold information on young members until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (in case they leave and then re-join) when all data except name, date of birth and their progress through scouting is deleted. You may ask for a copy of the data we hold. On written request we will delete all data we hold on an individual but the membership of that individual will then necessarily be terminated.

A copy of our Data Protection Policy is available on request to any Leader.

## 23 MEDICAL

In allowing your child to join the Sandstone Beavers you authorise the First Aider or Leader in charge to administer first aid to your child in accordance with Scout Association policy and guidance.

Where the First Aider or Leader in charge considers it appropriate and is unable to contact you to obtain prior consent this may include the administration of paracetamol based products such as Calpol.

Please note that the medical profession takes the view that the parent's/carer's consent to medical treatment cannot be delegated and this view is explicit in the Children's Act 1989. Thus medical consent forms have no legal status and a doctor or nurse insisting on the consent of a parent/carer to a particular treatment has the right to do so. For this reason you may delete the appropriate paragraph on the Application Form. However, it can be a comfort to medical staff to have general consent in advance from parents/carers or to have a Leader on hand able to sign forms required by the medical authorities.

## 24 PHOTOGRAPHS

We allow photographs of the young people to be taken for personal use by parents. **They may NOT be uploaded to social media** or displayed in public. You must not do so yourself, and you must warn any other person to whom you send photographs not to do so.

From time to time photographs are taken for use within the Group and for publication on our web site, in Scouting magazines or the local press. The full names of individual young people are not published in magazines or the press without their parents' permission, and names are never associated with photographs appearing with them.

In allowing your child to join the Sandstone Scout Group you agree to allow your child to be photographed under these terms. If you do not wish your child to be photographed on a particular occasion you must inform one of the uniformed Leaders and your child will then be removed while photographs are being taken.

Please be aware that we cannot prevent photography when we are in a public place.

## 25 MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

Scouts, Cub Scouts and Beaver Scouts are not permitted to have in their possession, or to use, mobile phones, electronic games, digital cameras and other electronic equipment while they are attending Scouting activities (including evening sessions and camps).

They may be permitted to take cameras and mobile phones or other communication equipment with them on trips and other events but if this is the case it will be stated in the instructions for the event.

## 26 SCOUT ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Your child will become a member of the Scout Association on joining. You will also become a Member if you apply to be a Leader.

There is an enormous amount of information about scouting on <http://www.scouts.org.uk/>



## **27 HOW YOU CAN HELP**

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

Meetings in the Scout Hut can only be held if there is a qualified Leader and at least one other adult present. Meetings outside the Scout Hut, including trips, require a qualified Leader for each 6 Beaver Scouts plus one other adult.

### **Parent Helpers (“Occasional Helpers”)**

In applying for your child to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandstone Beaver Scouts you agree to attend at least once or twice per term as part of a parent rota.

Adults may only accompany the Beaver Scouts on trips or help more than once per month if they have applied to become ‘Occasional Helpers’ and passed a (free) DBS check. If you would like to become an ‘Occasional Helper’ please let us know.

### **Adult Leaders**

The success of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandstone Scout Group depends on the willingness of parents and other adults to give their time as uniformed Leaders. It doesn’t have to be every week. The more Leaders we have the lighter the load on each Leader. Please, therefore, think seriously about whether you can offer a few evenings each term – it’s great fun! We’ll be delighted to discuss it with you.

### **Committee Members**

We also require adults to help as members of the Scout Group Committee. This is an important role, providing invaluable assistance to the Leaders and helping to ensure that the Scout Group is well organised and providing a positive and enjoyable experience to its members.

Roles performed by Committee Members include Group Chairman, Group Secretary, Group Treasurer, Buildings Manager, Woodland Manager, Equipment Manager, Visitor Manager and Publicity & PR Manager.

If you can offer any additional help on either a regular or an occasional basis, or you know anyone else who can help, please let us know.

## **28 FURTHER ENQUIRIES**

If you have any questions, require any information, or wish to contact the Scout Group, the Leaders or the Committee at any time please use the contact link on our web site or speak to any of the Leaders or Committee members.