

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.

We aim to help young people to develop as active members of their community who are self reliant, caring, responsible and who show commitment. We provide 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>

2 EXPLORER SCOUTS

Explorer Scouts belong to the fourth Section in the Scouting family. Young people join Explorer Scouts at 14 and they are eligible to become adult Leaders when they reach 18.

3 SCOUT PROMISE

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

The Scout Promise is: “On my honour I Promise to do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people, and to keep the Scout Law”.
(Note: 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 worldwide 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.

4 1ST SANDSTONE SCOUT GROUP

The 1st Sandstone Scout Group, to which the Wildfire Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) is affiliated, is based at the Scout Hut on Goldford Lane, Bickerton and draws its members from Tattenhall, Bickerton, Cholmondeley, Bickley and the surrounding areas.

It has Beaver, Cub and Scout sections and young people normally join as Beaver Scouts and progress through the Sections and then on to Explorers. Currently the Group has 120 young members supported by 25 adult Leaders.

5 WILDFIRE EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT (ESU)

The Explorers Scout Unit is open to boys and girls.

The Unit meets from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm on Wednesday evenings during the school terms of Bishop Heber High School. Trips and other events are organised in addition.

The Scout Hut is located in several acres of our own private woodland and its position gives us direct access to the whole of the public access land on the Bickerton Hill. We make every effort to be outdoors whenever daylight and the weather permit this.

6 JOINING THE EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT

Young people are normally invited to join from the Scout Troop at the start of each new school year and after the February half term once they have reached 14.

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

1. try to attend most weekly meetings except in the case of illness, family emergencies and other pressing engagements such as exams and other school commitments
2. attend the annual Remembrance Day Parade at Tattenhall

7 INVESTITURE

Your child will fully join the Unit and be invested as an Explorer 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 Unit
4. knows and understands the Scout Promise, Law and Motto
5. knows and understands the Scout 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

8 UNIFORM

The only essential items of uniform are:

1. a long sleeved uniform shirt, onto which badges are sewn as they are earned. This can be purchased on-line, or from the shop in the Chester District HQ. This is worn on formal occasions, and with any suitable black or dark blue dark trousers. We recommend that you only buy from these sources; other shops often sell old styles of uniform
2. for normal wear the Explorers wear a Wildfire ESU 'hoodie' of our own design over any clothes suitable for outdoor activities; the cost of the 'hoodie' is £30. If family budgets cannot accommodate this cost we can subsidise it on request.

9 BEHAVIOUR

Explorer Scouts are aged 14 to 17. They will 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 about 7.25 pm
2. take pride in their uniform and appearance
3. stand silent and smartly "at ease" or "alert" during the opening and closing ceremonies
4. listen to and follow the instructions they are given, and not talk while they are being spoken to
5. help each other, and in particular help newer members

10 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Wildfire Explorers have developed their own code of conduct and a copy of this is displayed in the Scout Hut and is available to parents on request.

11 REGISTRATION

We only accept responsibility for young people on the register.

Please ensure, therefore, that your son/daughter reports to the Leader in Charge on arrival 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 deal with 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 young people have left.

14 WATCHING AND ATTENDING

Parents are always welcome to watch or join in with Explorer Scout activities and you can come into the Scout Hut or watch outdoor activities at any time. Please bear in mind, however, that at Explorer age the young people often prefer their parents to be elsewhere!

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 Sandstone Scout Group AGM is usually held during this event, and this provides you with the opportunity to influence the way the Unit is run.

15 PROGRAMME

Unlike the younger sections the Unit programme is based around the aspirations, aptitudes and preferences of its members, and the Explorer Scouts themselves are expected to make a major contribution to the design of the programme.

The overall aim of the programme is to ensure that all the Explorer Scouts have fun, make new friends, try new things, make progress, work together in groups, practice leadership, learn life skills and keep the Scout 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.

These Trips and Events will be published in the weekly emails and on OSM

17 BADGES

All sections of the Scout Movement recognise a young person's achievements with special badges. Most 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.

In Explorers the badges tend to represent major achievements including, for instance, progress towards qualification as a Young Leader or the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Badges must be sewn onto the uniform shirt in the correct positions.

18 COMMUNICATION

Communication in the ESU is primarily direct to the Explorers via WhatsApp.

Communication with parents is via email. Please, therefore, check your email regularly for items from the Unit.

19 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The current subscription for Explorer Scouts is £80* per year. 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".*

All Leaders and other helpers give their time free of charge. 50% of the subscription pays for the costs of National, County and District Scout HQs (which provide many of the common resources on which we rely such a personal, accident and medical expenses insurance and larger camp sites and activity centres) and the remainder covers the costs of the Sandstone Scout Group and Wildfire ESU such as maintenance of the Scout Hut and grounds, insurance, fuel & water, badges, and equipment used by the ESU.

To allow young people to attend a few sessions before deciding whether they want to join the initial subscription will be refunded if the young person decides not to join before the day they are invested as an Explorer Scout (normally the 4th week after starting).

20 INSURANCE

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

21 PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Leaders need to be able to contact each young person'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 18th 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 ESU 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 Scouts to be taken for personal use by parents. They must 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 the photos not to do so.

From time to time photographs are taken for publication on our web site or in Scouting magazines or the local press. The names of individual Scouts are not published in magazines or the press without the parents' permission.

In allowing your child to join the ESU 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

Explorer Scouts are 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 are not permitted to take devices capable of electronic communication on DofE expeditions

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 Scouts, cannot operate without adults prepared to help.

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

Parent Helpers (“Occasional Helpers”)

Adults may only help outside the Scout Hut grounds or accompany the Scouts on trips or help more than once per month if they have applied to become ‘Occasional Helpers’ and passed a (free) DBS check.

Adult Leaders

The success of the 1st 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.

Skills Instructors

If you have any special skills, or are prepared to train to acquire them at our expense, you can become a Skills Instructor. We would then seek your assistance when we are undertaking the relevant activity.

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 YOUNG LEADERS

All Explorer Scouts are invited to become Young Leaders, but taking on this role is not mandatory.

Explorer Scouts who become Young Leaders help with the Beaver, Cub and Scout Sections as Leaders, performing exactly the same role as the adult Leaders except that they cannot be given sole charge of the younger members. They also follow a modular Young Leader Training Programme designed to equip them to take on full leadership roles either within or outside Scouting.

Service as a Young Leader meets the requirements of the 'Volunteering' section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The role of a Young Leader is additional to their role as Explorer Scouts. Young Leaders are eligible to join all trips and other events run by the ESU or the Group (normally at a discounted rate as we expect them to help as Leaders in addition to enjoying the trip!).

29 DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Scouting provides a "one stop shop" for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

Many of the activities that Explorers undertake within Scouting will enable them, once registered for the scheme with us, to qualify for the appropriate award. Service as a Young Leader covers the requirements of the 'Volunteering' section and many of our outdoor activities can be used to complete the 'Physical' section. Each year we organise appropriate training and practice and assessed 'Expeditions' at the appropriate levels.

Explorer Scouts can register for the Scheme with us, as a Licensed Organisation, and we lead and support them in their progress through the Scheme.

Those who achieve the DofE Gold Award can then move on to gain recognition as a 'Queen's Scout' – an award which is a real career game changer.

30 FURTHER ENQUIRIES

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