

# *Join the adventure*



## **Information for Parents and Guardians**

**Greater London South West Scouts**  
**[www.glsWSCouts.org.uk](http://www.glsWSCouts.org.uk)**



## Join the adventure



### *What is Scouting?*

Scouting is a global, educational youth Movement, providing young people with Adventure, Fun and Challenge.

With almost 500,000 members, The Scout Association is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the UK. Its clear purpose is: To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

### *More information?*

The Scout Association's Information Centre can be contacted on: 0845 300 1818. The information Centre operates 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12 noon on Saturday. Visit the website: [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

### *Developing young people*

In Scouting, we believe that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing', when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Development is guided by the Scout Programme - a continuous progression of training, activities, badges and awards for all young people aged 6 to 25.

The Programme is designed to suit 5 core age groups:

- Beaver Scouts 6 - 8
- Cub Scouts 8 - 10½
- Scouts 10½ - 14
- Explorer Scouts 14 - 18
- Scout Network 18 - 25

In addition to meeting nights your child should expect opportunities for outings, indoor residential and camping experiences and other

challenges suited to their age and ability. The programme is tailored to the interests, needs and pace of each individual, but also recognises group achievement. The highest personal achievement is that of the Queen's Scout Award. From age 14 it is also possible to register through Scouting for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### *Our responsibilities*

In Scouting, our adults must operate responsibly in accordance with our policies on Child Protection, Equal Opportunities and Safety in Scouting. The Scout Association applies stringent vetting procedures, including criminal record checks, for all adult appointments.

All adults must abide by our Young People First code of behaviour. Our policies and procedures are designed to keep young people safe from harm whilst they enjoy the fun and excitement of their Scouting adventure. (see Child protection)



### *The Promise*

All members make this simple promise and become part of the Worldwide Scout Movement.

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

Younger children make an easier form of the promise and different wording is available recognising different faiths.

### *Leadership*

Our young members are supported by almost 100,000 adult volunteers. Adult members of The Association serve as Commissioners (volunteer managers), Leaders, Section Assistants, Administrators, and in many other roles. The support of non-member adults is also welcomed, particularly from parent helpers.

The adults who run Scout Groups are called Scouters. They are all unpaid volunteers who are required to undertake training or learning appropriate to their role. Section Leaders are responsible to a Group Scout Leader, who in turn is responsible to a District Commissioner.

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints please speak to the Section Leader. If your concern is about the Leader please contact the Group Scout Leader. If not available or you are still not satisfied please refer to the District Commissioner. If you do not have the number of your local District Commissioner please contact the Scout Information Centre, Tel. 0845 300 1818



#### *An International Movement*

Scouting is currently active in 218 countries and territories with a global membership of over 28 million. Two thirds of the international membership is in developing countries.

The Association promotes international opportunities including camps and projects, with the aim of strengthening links between The Scout Association in the UK and other members of The World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Today, Scouts across the world are involved in development projects as diverse as peace education, drug abuse prevention, provision of

clean water and sanitation, literacy, renewable energies and environmental conservation.



#### *When do Groups meet?*

Each Scout Group section meets regularly, usually once a week during the school terms. There are often other opportunities for members to take part in events throughout the year. These might include day outings, camps and expeditions as well as a whole host of other activities.

#### *What do Members need?*

For the first few meetings your child needs nothing at all to experience the magic of Scouting. The Scout Association produces a range of uniforms for all age groups as well as an extensive range of books to support the development of members as they progress from the Beaver Scout Section through to The Scout Network. The Section Leader will agree a time when it is suitable to purchase a uniform and start working on the Scout Programme. She / he can advise on local outlets for uniform purchase and other materials. Additionally, Scout Shops Ltd operates a mail order service and can be contacted on Tel: 01903 755352 or [www.outdoors.ltd.uk](http://www.outdoors.ltd.uk)

#### *What will it cost?*

Scout Groups charge subscriptions ('subs') to cover costs of equipment and the upkeep of the meeting place. There is also an annual membership subscription which is paid to headquarters for the day-to-day running of the Scout Association and includes insurance for all members.

Section Leaders will let you know the amount required locally as well as how and when to pay. An extra charge is normally required for special events, camps, and other outings.



#### *Gift Aid*

If you pay tax, the local Scout Group can use Gift Aid to claim 28p for every £1.00 you give in subscriptions or donations. All you need to do is sign the Gift Aid declaration that forms part of this information leaflet. All the money will be used to benefit members of the Scout Group.

#### *Parental permission*

It is taken as understood that you give your permission for your child to take part in Scout activities at the regular meeting place during the normal meeting time. Your permission is sometimes needed for specific events, camps and activities that may take place at a different venue or time. You will be asked to complete a parental consent form in such circumstances.

#### *Medical, dietary and other confidential Information*

It is essential that you inform the Section Leader if your son/daughter suffers from any medical condition or if they require any specialist medicines or treatment. Information regarding any special dietary requirements (allergies etc.) or food which your child can not eat is also essential.

Please note it assists the Leaders greatly if you can also inform them of any circumstances at home which may affect the behaviour of your child or of any educational issues such as difficulty reading so that the Leadership team can take this info consideration during programme planning.

#### *Child Protection*

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. The Scout Association takes all reasonable steps to ensure that, through

relevant procedures and training, members and adults taking part in Scout activities do so in a safe environment

#### *Helping Scouting and supporting your child*

The Scout Association encourages you to support your child's involvement in Scout activities. The Scout Association is run by volunteers and it encourages parents and guardians to assist in the leadership team on a regular or occasional basis. Any support that you or your family can offer Scouting is welcomed, appreciated and valued. Help is particularly appreciated with practical skills, outdoor activities, as well as with transport, equipment and fund-raising. You may also be willing to assist occasionally with the Section meeting night, with administration and fund-raising.



#### *Other ways you can help*

- Deliver and collect your child at the appropriate times and place, as advised by the Section Leader.
- Members are never left unsupervised, but if you are persistently late the Section Leader may ask you to make other safe arrangements for collection
- Always check that an adult Leader has arrived before leaving your child
- Please tell the Section Leader if somebody different from usual will be collecting them
- Ensure your child wears uniform and has suitable clothing and footwear for other activities
- Return forms and payment on time for camps and other activities. (If you have difficulties completing forms or making payments then please speak in confidence to the Section Leader)
- Inform the Section Leader of any additional needs that your child may have and any new medication required e.g. inhaler
- Inform the Section Leader of any change in the family situation that is likely to affect your child's behaviour