

**YOU'VE
JOINED A
WINNING
TEAM.**

**Information, support and resources
for your role in Scouting**

WELCOME

Welcome to your role in Scouting

Thank you for recently taking on your role. This document gives you a brief overview of Scouting in your local area, key contacts, and an idea of what you will be doing and what resources and help you should receive.

Scouting aims to offer challenge and adventure to all its members. We believe in helping our young people fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We're working to make Scouting available to all and we're passionate about what we do.

Through the adventure of Scouting, young people get to take risks in a safe environment, and have their first taste of responsibility. We give young people experiences they'll never forget. The sort of adventure we offer is the chance to experience something different and the opportunity for young people to discover their potential. When a Beaver Scout wakes up the morning after a sleepover, or a Cub Scout has just got over their fear of heights by completing their first abseil – that's adventure.

All this is made possible by the efforts of our dedicated team of hard working voluntary adults – like you!. Our training scheme and one-to-one support ensures that each of our volunteers gets to make the best use of their skills and talents.

Our adults have a responsibility to make the Programme fun and exciting. They also make sure that it is safe. Our policies, rules, code of behaviour and advice on child protection and safety are there to ensure our young people stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

Thanks once again, and welcome aboard!



SOME BACKGROUND

A bit of history....

Scouting was started in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell's book, Scouting for Boys, established the principles upon which Scouting is based. Those core values remain, and along the way Scouting has evolved into a modern, forward looking force for good.

Today, the purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people. We help them achieve their full potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The impact of Scouting

But don't just take our word for it. An independent study of Scouting's impact on young people and volunteers highlights how Scouting delivers real benefits to our members through to the activities we run and the way that we run them.

The study had three clear findings:-

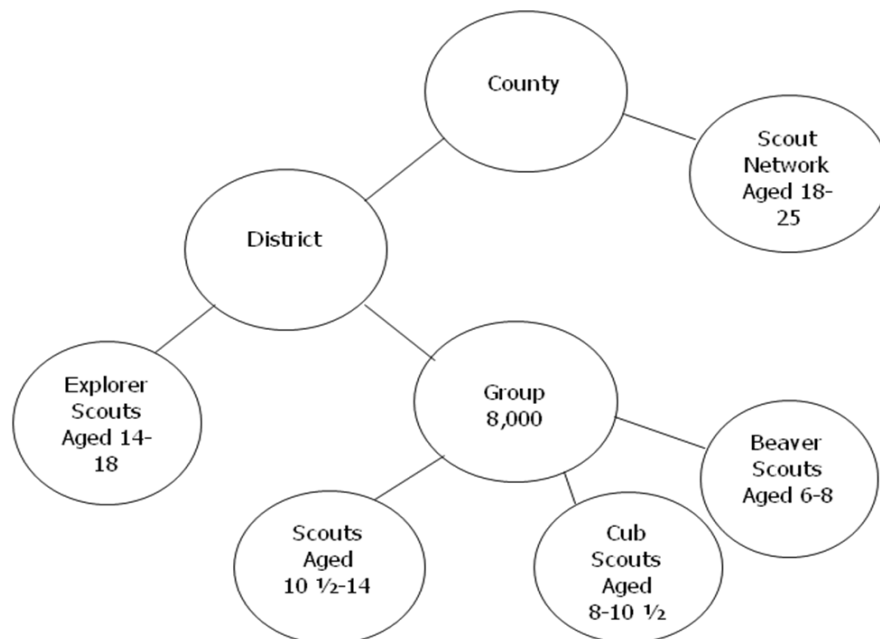
- * Scouting provides a unique package of inter-related benefits: having fun, building relationships, taking part in activities as well as the opportunity to contribute to the community.
- * Scouting develops the leaders of today and tomorrow. External organisations said that staff who had been involved in Scouting were above average employees across a range of attributes.
- * Scouting is an important community resource.

So by joining Scouting, it's giving young people the opportunity to be the best they can – and that's what we have always done...

So how is it all made up?

There are 400,000 young people in UK Scouting, spread across five age ranges: beaver scouts, cub scouts, scouts, explorer scouts and the scout network. Each age range has its own balanced programme of activities, badges and awards - being part of our 100,000 UK adult volunteers you will help deliver this.

The structure of the sections within scouting are like the diagram below, and you can have more than one section in each Group:-



The Sections:-



Beaver Scout Colony 6 – 8 years

Beaver Scouts are our youngest members. The Colony usually meets weekly to take part in a wide range of activities including games, crafts, singing, visits and good turns, along with plenty of outdoor activities. They will also have the opportunity to take part in the fun and excitement of camps and sleepovers. It may be the first time they spend a night away from home so it's a real adventure for them. Further information on the Beaver section can be found here : [Beavers](#)



Cub Scout Pack 8 – 10 ½ years

A cub scout pack can have up to 36 cub scouts and is split into smaller groups called sixes. Cubs take part in a wide range of activities designed to be interesting and to challenge them. A cub scout meeting consists of games and activities with plenty of time spent outdoors. Camps and holidays are some of the most memorable events of the year for cubs. Further information on the Cub section can be found here : [Cubs](#)



Scout Troop 10 ½ – 14 years

Each scout troop consists of small units of 6 to eight scouts called a patrol, usually led by a patrol leader. Outdoor activities feature prominently in the scout troop, with the highlight being camping. Throughout the year, scouts learn various skills, such as map reading, camp cooking and first aid in preparation for camp. Rock climbing, potholing, gliding, photography and international experiences are just some of the things that they get up to. Further information on the Scout section can be found here : [Scouts](#)



Explorer Scout Unit 14 – 18 years (District Based)

Explorers are encouraged to lead themselves in deciding the programme and direction of the unit, with the support and guidance from leaders. The section also includes the young leaders' scheme, where young people are able to take on a leadership role in one of the younger sections. There is wider scope for activities like offshore sailing, campaigning, performing, parascending, mountaineering and expeditions. Further information on the Explorer section can be found here : [Explorers](#)



Scout Network 18 – 25 years (County Based)

The scout network is a group who meet in a scout county or district and have an interest in both scouting and their own personal development. They lead and organise their own activities. Members will become specialists in activities, take part in expeditions and major community projects and take part in schemes like the Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh awards. Further information on the Network section can be found here : [Network](#)

Leaders – like you....

Our team of adult leaders is made up of dedicated volunteers from all over the UK – they are the people that make scouting happen near you. For most of the week they are business executives, engineers, plumbers, nurses, teachers, you name it, but the rest of the time they are the heart and soul of what we do.

Leaders can be any of the following, all of which have different training requirements:-

Occasional Helpers

These are adults that help out in a section or group, but not on a regular basis – i.e. not more than once a month. For instance Parents on a term rota will fall into this category. They do not wear uniform and do not take the promise, but importantly they do have to complete a Criminal Record check.

Sectional Assistants

Section Assistants support the Leaders in delivering the programme, they do not take part in the planning of the programme (but of course can). Subsequently they will need to do the 'Getting Started' elements of the training.

The key differences that you should be aware of are that sectional assistants receive a number of additional benefits including Scouting magazine, Scouting Plus, a higher level of insurance coverage and training to support them in their role. They also accrue service for their role in Scouting.

For more details and a role comparison table, see here:-

[Differences between sectional assistants and occasional helpers](#)

Section Leaders and Assistant Leaders

Essentially these types of Leaders are the same; they are responsible for managing and running the section with the Section Leader being the overall person responsible for what goes on in the section.

The Group Scout Leader

Looking after all the leaders of the sections, which make up a group, are our group scout leaders. They will manage and support the scout group and make sure that it is running effectively.

The District Commissioner

All the scout groups in your area will be part of a district. A district commissioner runs the district. You will get the opportunity to take part in district events, and meet many other leaders and scouts.

TRAINING

The Scout Association operates a flexible modular Adult Training Scheme, which covers all of the knowledge you will need, and takes into account any skills and experience that you may already have. As part of your role you will receive training to help you gain the skills that you will need. You should have been told about the training scheme, but if not this can be found in the Adult Personal File which should have been given to you or it can be found online here, along with some other useful information:-

[Adult's Personal File](#)

The training scheme consists of 3 parts, learning the module – putting it into practice (if required) – and validation, to ensure that you have understood the contents of the training.

The first piece of training that you will need to complete is 'Getting Started'. This is made up of three modules: *Essential Information (Module 1)*, *Tools for the Job- Sectional (Module 3)*, and a *Personal Learning Plan (Module 2)*.

The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) helps you to plan what learning you need to do moving forward, how you are going to do it, when and what knowledge or skills you can already bring to your training. This will be completed after you have completed the other two modules of the 'Getting Started' training.

You can start these other two now and you should aim to have completed (and hopefully validated) modules 1 and 3 within the next couple of months....

So to get you off and running, the link to Module 1 e-Learning is as follows:-

[Module 1 - Essential Information](#)

You will see that there are 6 Chapters to complete, the last being a Self Test Quiz.

Please make sure that you fill in your name for the quiz and print it out, as this will form part of your validation for the module.

In addition to this certificate, if you look at the Adults Personal File Guide to Module 1 (top of page 32), you will see that you need to do a couple of other things as well to be able to validate the Module.

As part of the Module 1 training you will also need to complete the safeguarding module and print the certificate at the end. The link to this is:

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/4050/safeguarding-awareness-online-training?moduleID=10>

The link to Module 3 e-Learning is as follows:-

[Module 3 - Tools for the Job \(Sectional\)](#)

You will see that there are 5 sections to complete, the last being a Post Module Quiz.

Please make sure that you fill in your name for the quiz and print it out, as this will form part of your validation for Module 3.

In addition to this certificate if you look in the Adults Personal File and go to the validation requirements for Module 3 (Page 35), you will see that you need to do a couple of other things as well to be able to validate the Module.

The Personal Learning plan will normally be put together with you and a Training Advisor and will be updated as you continue through your training. Normally you will keep a copy and so would your Training Advisor. As you progress through your training this PLP will get updated by your Local Training Administrator and your record on the Scout Associations membership management system database (MMS) will reflect the PLP.

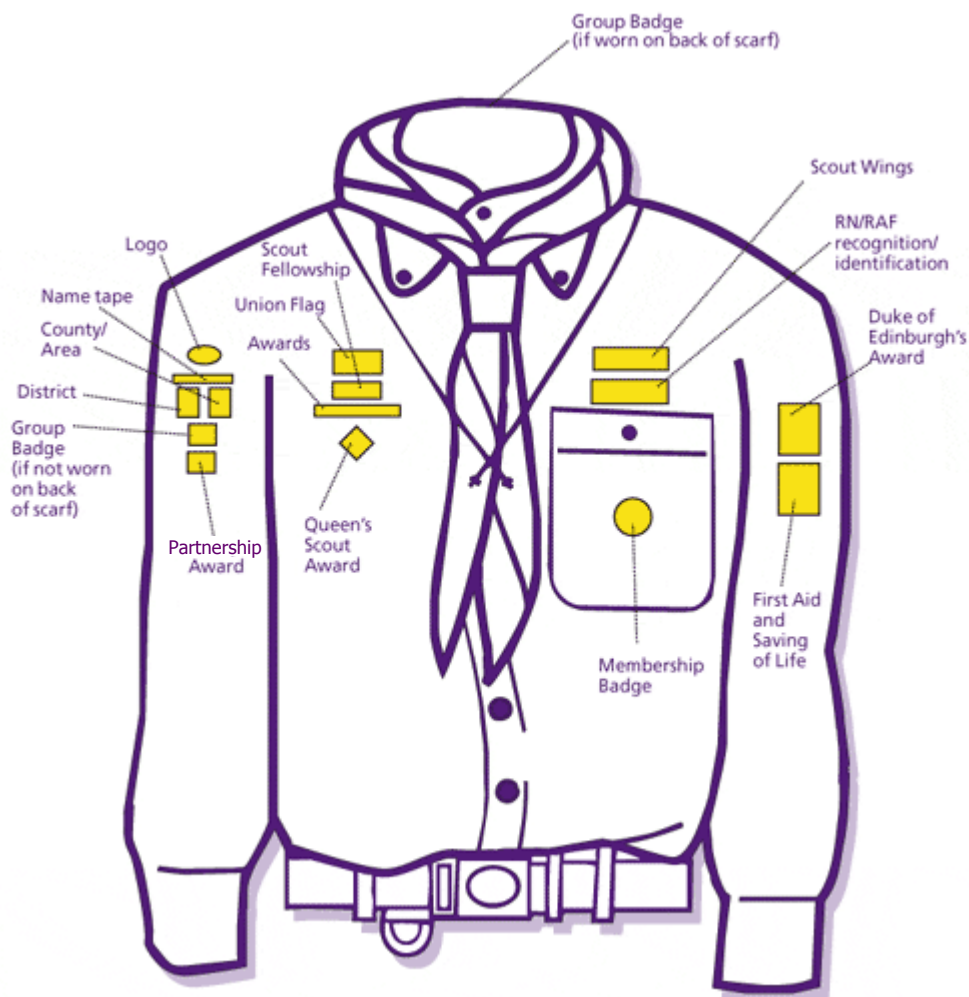
SOME USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOU....

You can purchase your uniform, if you need one, from your local Scout shop or online. They can be contacted via the details at the end of this document. If you are not sure what you need your Group Scout Leader will be able to help you.

Most groups will pay or contribute towards your uniform – your Group Scout Leader will let you know how this works in your Group.

You can usually also get badges for the young people in your section from your local Scout shop – your badges will usually be presented to you when you are invested.

The Adult Uniform:



Subscriptions

Most groups will have a subscription that the members pay, this covers things like building insurance, rent, gas etc. as well as insurance. In the main this consists of 3 parts – some to the group, some to the district and some to Headquarters.

In the vast majority of groups the subscriptions for the Leaders are paid for by the group and any out of pocket expenses – check how this works in your group with your Group Scout Leader.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....

Will I get paid/or get expenses?

The Scout Association is a voluntary organisation, and you will not be paid for your role. However, no adult should feel that cost prohibits them from taking up a role in Scouting, and we are committed to reimbursing out of pocket expenses for all volunteers. You should speak to your Group Scout Leader to find out how this works in your Group.

Where does religion fit into Scouting?

The Scout Association does not identify itself with any one religion, but asks all adult Members to have a belief in a God (higher being). Adults in Scouting should aim to encourage the spiritual development of young people in whichever faith they identify themselves with.

Who is responsible for administering first aid if there is an accident?

All trained adults in Scouting should have an up to date first aid certificate of First Response level or equivalent and are responsible for the young people in their care. On a camp or activity one person should be the designated first aider. If an incident requires any consultation with or treatment by a doctor, dentist or hospital the Information Centre should be notified.

What insurance do I/the young people have?

All Members of The Scout Association have personal accident insurance and legal liability cover whilst on Scouting activities. Current details can be obtained from Scout Insurance Services on 0845 0945 702 or www.scouts.org.uk/insurance. You can also talk to your Group Scout Leader if you have any questions.

Can I take young people on camp or sleepover straight away?

Every nights away event for young people in Scouting must be led by someone who holds a Nights Away Permit. Other leaders attending the event do not need a Nights Away Permit. Speak to your Group Scout Leader to find out more about this, and to find out who your Nights Away Adviser is.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT SCOUTING....

1. Scouting is for girls as well as boys.
2. Scouting is a global movement, .
3. Young people can join at any stage of their development.
4. The Scout Association is a registered charity.
5. Scouting is great value!
6. Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting was recently voted the 13th most influential person of the 20th Century.
7. Famous former Scouts include Paul McCartney, Billy Connolly, Stephen Spielberg and David Beckham.
8. Each day 100,000 people in the UK take part in Scouting activities.
9. Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell's blueprint for the Scout Movement is one of the most popular books of all time.
10. Scouting was 100 in 2007.
11. About half of our volunteers are female
12. There are over 30,000 young people waiting to join Scouting – the main reason for the large waiting list is that we don't have enough adults to help out.



SO WHAT ABOUT YOUR GROUP...

Your Group

Your Group is called 95th Reading

The Group Scout Leader is called Ron Spencer and they can be contacted on 9410897

The address of the Group HQ is Turnhams Farm Hall, Little Heath Road, Tilehurst

The Group Neckerchief (or Necker) is Blue and Gold

The Group is part of the Pang Valley District which is part of the Royal Berkshire County

The Group is made up of the following Sections:-

Beaver Scouts

The Leaders name is Rita Curran and they can be contacted by 9410897

They meet on a Monday at the HQ from 5.30 to 6.45pm

Cub Scouts

The Leaders name is Sean East and they can be contacted by 9433638

They meet on a Thursday at the HQ from 7.00 to 8.30pm

Scouts

The Leaders name is Rita Curran and they can be contacted by 9410897

They meet on a Monday at the HQ from 7.00 to 9pm

The leaders in the Section will usually get together at regular intervals to plan the activities for the Section. You should find out when the next meeting is.

Similarly, all the leaders in the Group also meet regularly and your GSL should also be able to tell you when and where this will be.

The sections in the Group are supported by the Executive Committee, the Chairperson is Simon Jones and can be contacted by 9843542

The HQ or meeting place:-



One of the leaders will arrange to meet you and show you round the Group meeting place to make sure that you know where everything is. It is also useful to familiarise yourself with the first aid equipment and any emergency procedures.

Ask how you gain access to the meeting place – do you need to be given a set of keys?

If you find yourself the only adult that arrives for the meeting you should try to contact your GSL and let them know.

AND YOUR DISTRICT...

Your DC is: Simon Pickett dc@pangvalleyscouts.org.uk or 07772306394

The other Groups in the District are:-

1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead
1st Theale and Calcot
1st Purley and Pangbourne
63rd Reading
95th Reading
80th Reading
Aldermaston
Scoutlink

WHERE TO GO TO GET MORE INFORMATION....

There is a wealth of information and resources available to support you in your role, here are some you may find useful!

The Scout Information Centre



The Information Centre is based at Gilwell Park, Chingford and provides a single point of contact if you are seeking information or resources relating to any aspect of scouting. It is open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12 noon on Saturday.

Phone: 0845 300 1818

Email: info.centre@scout.org.uk

Web: www.scouts.org.uk

Programmes Online

Programmes Online is a web based tool designed to make it easier for adults to plan programmes for young people. It contains hundreds of programme ideas and activities for you to try.

You will need to register with your membership number – which you will get if you have provided an email address when you filled in or fill in your AA form and received an email back asking you to confirm all your details on the system – failing this your GSL or The Information Centre should be able to help you find this.

www.scouts.org.uk/pol

Resources

A wide range of information and resources to support you in your role in Scouting are available online. As above if you have not registered you will need your membership number.

www.scouts.org.uk

When you have completed and validated the 'Getting Started' part of the training you will receive your appointment card which also has your membership number on it – you will then start to receive the magazine as well (if you are a sectional assistant you will receive these sooner).