

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

Information, support and resources  
for your role in Scouting



1<sup>st</sup> Ufton Nervet Scout Group

# 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!



# A BIT OF BACKGROUND

## A little 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:-

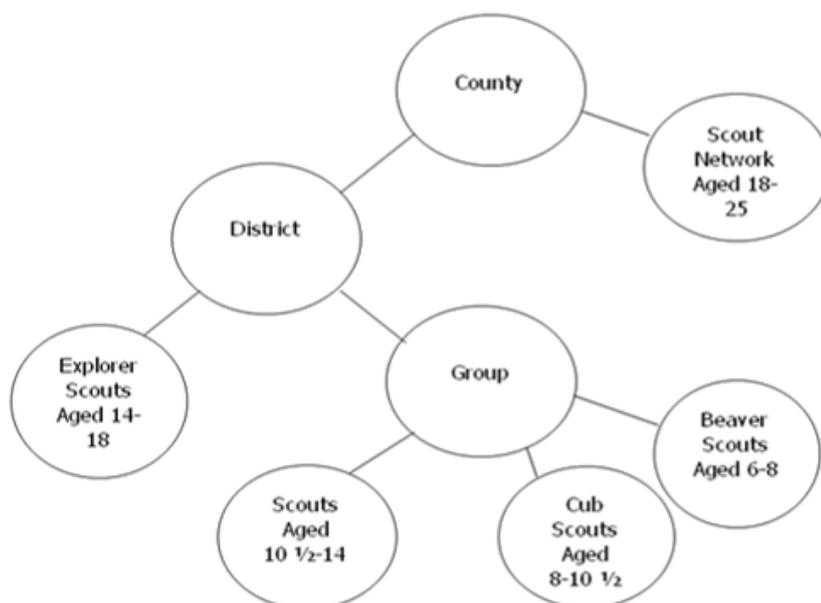
- \* Scouting provides a unique package of inter-related benefits: having fun, building relationships, taking part in activities as well as the opportunity to contribute to the community.
- \* Scouting develops the leaders of today and tomorrow. External organisations said that staff who had been involved in Scouting was 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 Scouting organised?

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 six 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's 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). Sectional Assistants have a number of key benefits over Occasional Helpers; Sectional Assistants can take a full part in the section programme, get 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 the running of 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

As part of your role you will receive training to help you gain the skills that you will need. 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. The first thing to do is to get in touch with an Induction Mentor, they should approach you through your Scout Group. Your Induction Mentor will help you to get started with your training before passing you to a Training Adviser (TA) who will help you through the training scheme.

The training scheme is outlined in the [Adult's Personal File](#). You will need this as you work through the scheme. You can use the electronic copy linked above or get a hardcopy from your TA, if you would prefer.

The training scheme consists of three parts; learning, 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 \(Module 3\)](#), and a *Personal Learning Plan (Module 2)*. You will also need to complete a [safeguarding course](#).

## Adult's Personal File Updates

From time to time this file is revised either as a complete new edition or individual module addendums. Your TA will be flexible and work to the version you currently have or give you the updates, as appropriate.

You can start 1, 3 and safeguarding now and you should aim to have completed (and hopefully validated) them within the next couple of months. Click the links above to head directly to the e-learning. Each module ends with a quiz or test. Please print or save a PDF of the certificates produced as these will form part of your validation for the module. If you look in the Adult's Personal File you'll need to do a couple of other things as well to be able to validate the modules – so don't leave the e-learning to the last minute! The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) will be completed after you have completed the other two modules of the 'Getting Started' training.

## Remember

Any prior experience you have volunteering as a Young Leader or from outside of the Scout Association can be used for validation evidence. Discuss this with your TA when putting your PLP together.

The PLP will be put together between you and a TA and 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. Together you will decide for which modules it would be beneficial for you to attend a training course and determine a timescale for completing each module. All training courses are optional and in choosing them

any of your prior experience should be considered.

Normally you will keep a copy of the PLP and so would your TA. As you progress through your training this PLP will be recorded on the Scout Association's Membership Management System (MMS). You can register on MMS at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/register> but you will need your membership number (ask your Group Scout Leader if you don't have yours, yet).

And finally, a few pointers: -

- You can start training / validating as soon as you've submitted your Adult Appointment Form or Change of Role Form. You do not need to wait for the Appointments Advisory Committee approval, DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service – formally CRB) or anything else.
- Your TA doesn't need to hold a Wood Badge in the same section as you volunteer.
- If your Group Scout Leader, Section Leader or anyone else that works with you holds a TA role they can be your TA. If a conflict of interest arises please speak to your Local Training Manager.
- Any TA can sign you off for any module, even if you have another TA as your main TA.
- There is no limit on the number of modules you can validate in one sitting (the only limit is a practical one, usually time).

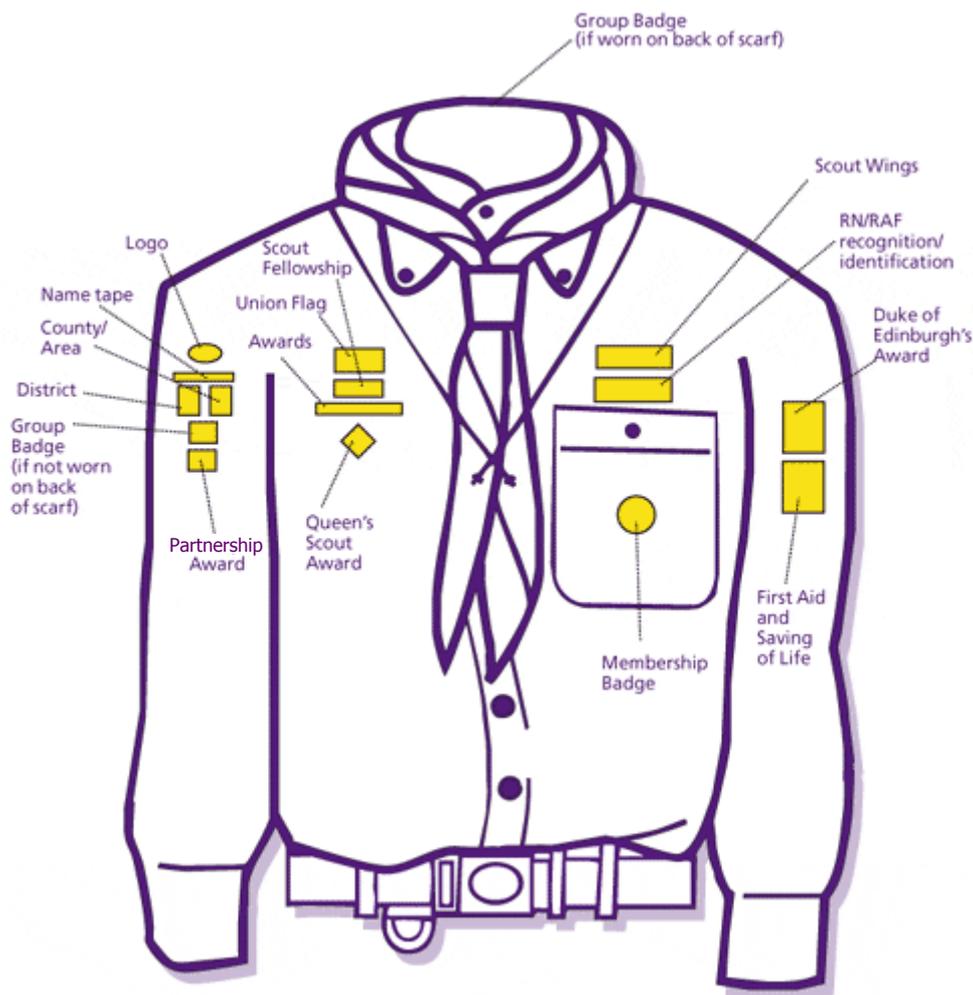
# THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO CHECK OUT

You can purchase your uniform, if you need one, from your local Scout Shop or online at <http://shop.scouts.org.uk/>. 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.

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

## 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 three 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.

# 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 try to encourage the spiritual development of young people in whichever faith they wish to identify themselves with.

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

All Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Managers 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](http://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 night's 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.

# 12 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. Many 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.



# YOUR GROUP...

Your Group is called 1<sup>st</sup> Ufton Nerve Scout Group.

The Group Scout Leader (GSL) is Cathryn Knight and she can be contacted on [rikki2010@live.co.uk](mailto:rikki2010@live.co.uk)

Telephone: 07793196869

The address of the Group HQ is Sulhamstead Village Hall.

The Group Neckerchief (or Necker) is Black & Turquoise.

The Group is part of the Pang Valley District which is part of [Royal Berkshire Scout County](#).

The Group is made up of the following Sections:-

## Beaver Scouts

The Leaders name is Nancy Nesbitt and they can be contacted on [nancy\\_nisbet@hotmail.com](mailto:nancy_nisbet@hotmail.com)

Telephone: 01189831022

They meet on a Tuesday at the HQ from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

## Cub Scouts

The Leaders name is Jo Burns and they can be contacted on [moosegnu@hotmail.com](mailto:moosegnu@hotmail.com) They meet on a Tuesday at the HQ from 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

## Scouts

The Leaders names are Chris & Teresa Jones and they can be contacted on

[chris@ajbuilders.uk.com](mailto:chris@ajbuilders.uk.com) [Teresa@ajbuilders.uk.com](mailto:Teresa@ajbuilders.uk.com) Chris: 07796693391 Teresa: 07825152154

Telephone: 0118 9835496

They meet on a Thursday at the HQ from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

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 Tony Holden and can be contacted by [tony@tonyholden.com](mailto:tony@tonyholden.com)

# AND YOUR DISTRICT...

The other Groups in the District are:-

1<sup>st</sup> Burghfield & Sulhamstead

1<sup>st</sup> Aldermaston

1<sup>st</sup> Theale & Calcot

1<sup>st</sup> Purley & Pangbourne

63<sup>rd</sup> Reading

79<sup>th</sup> Reading

80<sup>th</sup> Reading

95<sup>th</sup> Reading

# WHERE TO GO FOR 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](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk)

Web: [www.scouts.org.uk](http://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 – your Group Scout Leader can help you if you don't have this yet.

[www.scouts.org.uk/pol](http://www.scouts.org.uk/pol)

## Resources

A wide range of information and resources to support you in your role in Scouting are available online.

[www.scouts.org.uk](http://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 also start to receive the magazine (if you are a Sectional Assistant you may receive these sooner).

## Reading Scout & Guide

### Shop

For all your Scouting and Guiding requirements. If we haven't got it we can get it

<http://readingscoutandguideshop.co.uk/>