



Parents

Welcome Pack

Contents

Parents	1
Welcome Pack	1
Contents	1
Welcome	1
Scouting	1
The Group and Sections	1
The Promise	2
Uniform	2
Subscriptions	5
Trips and Activities	5
Child Protection and Health and Safety	5
Photographs / Video Footage	6
Further Information	7
Cub Scouts Uniform, Promise and Law	8

Welcome

We are delighted that your child has joined our group. This information pack will provide you with basic information regarding Scouting and the Group. There are no paper forms to fill in as we use Online Scout manager (OSM) as our membership system. You will already have a log in, and we ask that you check the data on OSM annually when prompted, normally in September, and ensure every field is complete. Please use N/A or no where appropriate rather than leaving any field blank. OSM is our main communication tool.

We ask you to register your child's attendance at every section meeting and events via OSM. Please respond to email from the system as they are generated for very good reasons.

Scouting

The Scout Movement is a global co-educational youth organisation, the largest in the world, with over 35 million Members in 216 countries and territories.

In the UK Scouting is organised through The Scout Association and which has a clear purpose:

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Scout Association offers everyday (and some more unusual!) adventure and activity to almost 416,000 young people across the UK.

Scouting is open to all young people aged 4 to 24 of every faith and background as long as they are prepared to make the promise. A number of variations of the promise are available to cover a range of faiths and nationalities.

There are also plenty of opportunities for adults to become involved as Leaders, Assistants, and Administrators and as Group Supporters. If you would like to be involved with our Group, then please contact one of the Groups Leaders.

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

The Group and Sections

Our Group, 21st Hartshill Scout Group currently consists of 3 sections and they meet as follows:-

Beavers 6 to 8 years old meet between 6pm & 7pm on Thursday

Cubs 8 to 10 ½ years old, meet between 6:30pm & 8:00pm on Wednesdays

Scouts 10 ½ to 14 years old, meet between 7:30pm & 9:00pm Thursday

With all sections there is some flexibility in age ranges.

The Group can always benefit from assistance either as a Leader, helper, or a member of the Group's Executive or as an occasional specialist skills helper, passing on skills or hobbies. If you would like to help, in any capacity, please contact us.

Whilst the activities they take part in will depend on their age, each Section gives young people the opportunity to learn by doing. The main programme areas are:

- Outdoor and Adventure
- Global
- Community
- Fit for Life
- Creative and Beliefs
- And Attitudes

Leaders are trained to deliver this programme, ensuring our young people stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

The Promise

Our Scout Group is an 'Open Group'; this basically means that as long as your Child meets the general requirements for membership of the Scout Association, they are welcome within our Group.

To become a member of the Scout Association and our group your child will be asked to make a promise at an investiture ceremony. This would normally be undertaken about 4 weeks after they regularly start attending, however it can be carried out at any event. We would always try and make this a very special event for your child, however it is your child's investiture and would only be carried out when they were ready. Investitures may be delayed so that they could be carried out at a special event e.g., at camp. You, of course, would be more than welcome to witness this ceremony.

The promise that they make will be dependent on the section that they are joining. The general promise for each section is attached; the promise can, however, be altered in a number of ways to take into account religious beliefs; nationality and / or special needs.

Their Leader can generally answer any questions that you or your child may have regarding the promise.

Uniform

Details of uniform for each section, and the location of badges are attached.

On or around their 4th evening we would normally expect your child to attend in uniform from the waist up. However, for specific activities full or suitable uniform activity-wear may be more suitable. Guidance on the expected uniform for each activity would be provided with details of the proposed event or activity.

- **Beavers** Blue sweatshirt and Group neckerchief
- **Cub Scouts** Dark green sweatshirt and Group neckerchief
- **Scouts** Teal green smart shirt, Group neckerchief

The Scout Association produce dark blue uniform 'activity' trousers. Navy blue coloured Regatta walking trousers are the same. For events where full uniform is required these activity / walking trousers or dark grey / black 'school' type trousers / skirt would be more than adequate.

The Group neckerchief is Black and gold.

For activity wear there is a choice of optional 'scouting' polo shirts available on-line from any scouting suppliers or we do periodically order our own 'Dave the mousse' polo shirts that can be purchased. Please ask a leader for details.

Badge Work

Members of all ages work towards attaining awards both in their chosen activities and the programme they take part in each week. From Circus Skills and Street Sports to Imagination and Public Relations, there is a wide range of choice of Activity Badges for all Sections. Hobbies that your child has can also be used to help both **'Activity Badges'** and progressive training awards.

These are generally awarded for trying new activities and doing their best at them for the younger sections whilst Scouts and Explorers do have some badges that specific standards have to be met. Generally, the effort needed to obtain the badge, or the standard required increases as your child progresses through the sections. In addition, though, there are lots of **'Staged Activity Badges'** these have been designed to provide a unified approach throughout the Sections.

Most of the Staged Activity Badges have about 6 stages. This means that a young person can gain whichever badge is appropriate to the level they have reached. It is possible, for example, for a Beaver Scout who is an excellent swimmer to gain a higher-level badge than a Scout who has just taken up the activity.

There are **'Joining In'** awards which are presented with the numbering indicating how many years the Member has regularly attended and participated in the balanced programme across the whole Scout Movement.

Each section has several **'Challenge Badges'**; these can either be done individually or in groups. On completion of a number of these your child can earn the relevant Chief Scouts Award, the highest award earned worn on their uniform.

- Beaver Scouts **Chief Scout's Bronze Award**
- Cub Scouts **Chief Scout's Silver Award**
- Scouts **Chief Scout's Gold Award**

When your child is ready to move onto the next section there are moving on awards for each section.

Occasionally your child may be asked to undertake things at home to go towards badge-work or challenges being undertaken at their meeting.

Subscriptions

At the current time Subscriptions are £15 per month payable by standing order due on the 1st of the month

The Subscriptions help to cover the cost of maintaining our 'HQ' as well as things like badges and materials for activities carried out at their meetings. It also covers the annual capitation fee's that the Scout Association require every member to pay in to cover the running of the National Association and insurance. Some other activities such as camps, may incur extra costs.

If at any point paying for either subscriptions or for activities becomes an issue please speak to one of the Group's Leadership team.

We can claim the gift aid paid on all the monies that are paid to us. This includes money paid for subscriptions and activity costs. This means that for every £1 paid to the Group we can claim 25p back from the Inland Revenue. In addition to being an easy fund-raising method, it means that we can keep costs of activities as low as possible. To enable us to do this though you need or someone in your household pays income or capital gains tax. To fill in a "**Gift Aid Declaration**" which is in the OSM form. Just put yes in the box. Thanks.

Trips and Activities

In order to supplement the weekly meetings and to ensure that everyone has the best opportunities. There are very few activities that members of The Scout Association are actually banned from doing. Consequently, if it is possible, to do an activity, and there is a large enough interest to do so we will try to organise it.

However, when organising trips or activities we often have to impose a cut off date for responses. This is generally due to purchasing tickets, completing all of the necessary risk assessments and making arrangements with the 'Home Contact' for the event.

These cut off dates will be strictly adhered to. Consequently, if subsequent to your child being accepted on a trip or activity, if they are unable to attend please let us know as soon as possible.

Another cut off reason may be the number of people taking part. For instance, if we are only able to 10 members due to the number of available canoes for example, it's important that everyone turns up because their place could have been given to another child

Child Protection and Health and Safety

The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behavior, advice on Child Protection and safety policy are there to ensure our young people stay safe whilst the Programme of

activities that we provide is fun, exciting and challenging. Most importantly we must also make sure that all activities undertaken are safe.

It is the policy of The Scout Association (and therefore of the Group) to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

The Scout Association is committed to:

- Taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people.
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working.
- Taking all reasonably practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and
- Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

All adults aged eighteen or over, no matter what their role or involvement within Scouting, are responsible for putting this policy into practice at all times.

All Leaders and regular helpers have been subjected to, and passed, an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) disclosure. In addition, all leaders have passed a basic first aid qualification.

However, accidents occasionally can happen, consequently in order to comply with The Scout Association's own health and safety policy's we require certain information regarding emergency contacts (next of kin, emergency contact numbers etc.). If this information changes e.g., change of address or phone number please let us know and update your child's information on OSM.

During activities and trips this contact information, including parent or guardian contact information, will be provided to a third party who will not normally be related to anyone on the activity or trip. This will be the events nominated 'Home Contact'. If it is necessary to contact, you during the event it is likely to be this person who will contact you.

Further information and consent forms may be required for specific activities.

The Group can cope with members that have special needs; however, we do need to know of any special requirements, allergies etc. that your child may have.

All information provided is kept in complete confidence. It is normal for us to ask for the OSM record to be checked and updated when your child moves sections to ensure that we have up to date information. The only people outside of the Group to have access to any of this information would be a nominated 'Home Contacts' during trips or activities.

Photographs / Video Footage

The various sections regularly take part in a wide range of activities, organised at a Group, District or County level. Many of these involve challenging activities, which the youngsters involved often like evidence to prove that they have taken part.

In addition, images of the youngsters enjoying themselves can be extremely useful for publicity purposes, internally (e.g., for use on the Group facebook page), externally (sent to local newspapers and on display boards etc. in the HQ). Photographs and video footage of the youngsters in the activities may also be used as a training aid (both adult and youngsters) or as validation of adult training.

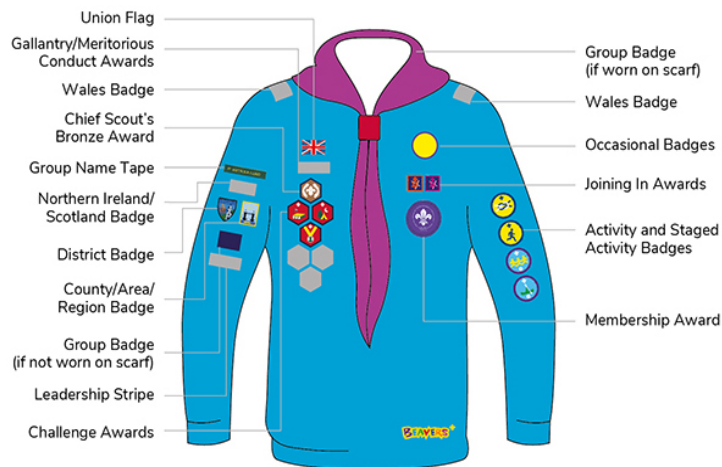
At Group events it is relatively easy for the Leaders in charge to take suitable and agreeable photographs of the children involved. At larger events such as District or County events, it is not necessarily possible for the Leader to dictate what photographs might be taken or the specific end use of the photographs. However, as the photographs would be taken as part of a Scouting event, they would need to comply with The Scout Association's Child Protection Policy, as would photographs or video images taken during Group events.

Please ask if you have any questions concerning this. If we wish to use photos for any other purposes, we will seek your permission. Please fill it in as appropriate section on OSM sign to say that you accept it.

Further Information

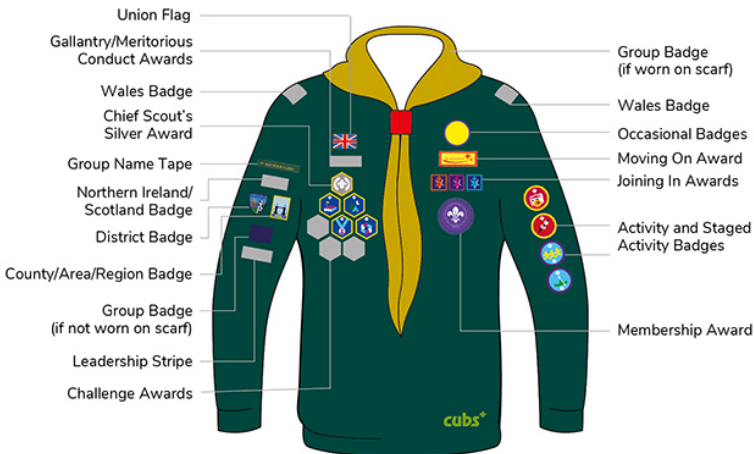
Further details regarding anything about scouting can be found on the Internet at...

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources>



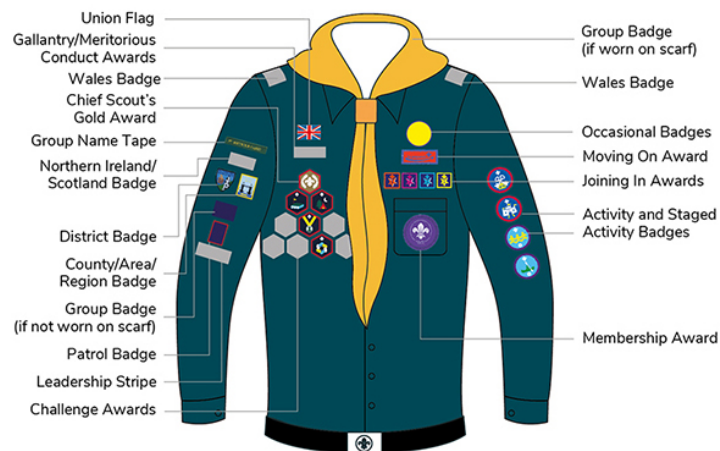
The Beaver Scout Promise	I promise to do my best To be kind and helpful And to love God.
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Cub Scouts Uniform, Promise and Law



The Cub Scout Promise	I promise that I will do my best To do my duty to God and to the King, To help other people And to keep the Cub Scout Law
The Cub Scout Law	Cub Scouts always do their best Think of others before themselves And do a good turn every day.

The Scout Uniform Law and promise



The Scout Promise On my honour, I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and to The King,
To help other people,
And to keep the Scout Law

The Scout Law

- 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 & property
- 7) A Scout has self-respect and respect for others

Website: Hartshillscouts.com

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5thNewboldScoutGroup>

HQ Address: 21st Hartshill Scout Group HQ, 41 Mount Pleasant, Hartshill, Stoke on Trent, ST5 1DA