



First Polegate Scout Group
C/o Polegate Community Centre
305846 (Exempt Charity)
www.polegatescouts.org



GROUP PROSPECTUS

&

WELCOME PACK

“The spirit is there in every child; it has to be discovered and brought to light”: Baden Powell



PROSPECTUS & WELCOME PACK

Introduction

Welcome to the First Polegate Scout Group. This pack will give you an insight into the aims of Scouting, the structure of the Group, and how we can work together for the benefit of your child.

Scouting is currently the world's largest youth movement, with some 30 million members around the world.

Polegate has had a troop of Scouts recorded from as early as 1910. The First Polegate Scout Group as it is now was first registered on 31st March 1960; it has a proud history, and a great future ahead.

More than ever Scouting can provide a sound basis for the development of young people, to explore their full potential through an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training.

You have already made the right decision in letting your child join our Group, support us along the way and together we'll see what we can make of them.

Please return the relevant forms as soon as you are able, it helps us keep things running smoothly.

If you have any concerns, questions or comments then please do not hesitate to get in touch

Yours in Scouting

Damian Stoneham,
Group Scout Leader.
First Polegate Scout Group
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54 Windsor Way
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6QF



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MISSION STATEMENT

The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The **YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST** POLICY

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 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 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.



GROUP STRUCTURE

Who does what? – Roles within the Group

| | |
|---|---|
| Group Scout Leader | Has overall managerial responsibility for the Group. Ensures the Scout Group functions effectively and successfully, fulfilling the aims of the Scout Association and needs of the young people. Supports the adult team in their development and ensures the provision of a full and exciting programme in each section to develop the young people to their full potential. |
| Section Leader Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) Cub Scout Leader (CSL) Scout Leader (SL) Assistants (ABSL, ACSL, ASL) | Each of the sections has a team of warranted leaders whose responsibility it is to deliver the programme and training for the young people. Leaders have the opportunity to undertake a modular training scheme which gives them the skills to carry out their role. They have a key role in planning and running activities, they get to wear the uniform and have the reward of seeing the young people develop under their guidance. |
| Section Assistant | Adults who may not wish to be uniformed leaders but who can undergo some of the same training and be just as valuable to the team of adults. A regular commitment is not essential, but always welcome. Uniform is optional for this role. |
| Skill Instructor | If an adult has a specific use in training the young people they can become a skill instructor, they may wear a uniform and are not required to provide a regular commitment. |
| Parent Helper | Provided an adult has completed a CRB form (child protection check) they can assist on an informal ad-hoc basis as a parent helper, perhaps just for one event/activity, or even at regular weekly meetings. An easy way to join in the fun and see your own children develop. |
| Group Executive | Exists to support the Group Scout Leader and is responsible for; fundraising, finance, administration, acting as trustees, public relations, and other vital support work. |
| Group Council | Consists of all parents/guardians and leaders and the Group Executive. Holds an AGM each year to elect members and deal with any issues arising. |



MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Introduction

Like any organisation we do have some rules which I am sure you will appreciate are an essential part of running a successful Group. They are laid out clearly here, however, special circumstances will always be taken into account and every effort will be made to resolve any problems. If you are in any doubt at all, or require further information then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Damian Stoneham
Group Scout Leader

1. UNIFORM

Scouts are part of a uniformed organisation. The uniform encourages a sense of pride, discipline and self-respect. All young people will be expected to wear smart uniform on all activities, unless directed otherwise. Upon investiture (formal joining ceremony) all members will be presented with a group scarf and woggle. In brief the uniform consists of;

Beaver Scouts - Beaver Scout sweatshirt and navy joggers/combat (no logos please)
Cub Scouts - Cub Scout sweatshirt and navy combat (no logos please)
Scouts - Scout shirt, Scout Association activity trousers/navy combat and scout belt

2. ATTENDANCE

Each section meets weekly on Friday's in term time and on other occasions which will be specified in advance. The sections follow a programme throughout the year of modules which work towards various awards, if a young person does not attend regularly it will make it harder for them to achieve these awards and develop throughout the programme.

All young people will be expected to attend all meetings unless particular circumstances prevent them from doing so, for example illness or any other unavoidable absence.

Consideration has to be given to children on waiting lists, as a result any young person who is absent for an extended period without notice or reasonable excuse may be suspended and their place may be offered to the next eligible person on the waiting list.

- Beavers Meet at 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
- Cub Scouts Meet at 6:15pm to 7:30pm
- Scouts Meet at 7:45pm to 9:30pm



3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions are an essential part of keeping the Group running, it is the means by which we cover costs and invest in the programme of activities for the young people. The Group is a registered charity, not a profit making organisation, your monies are valued and carefully used. The subs provide funds for insurance purposes, association membership fees, training for adults, building maintenance costs, purchase of programme materials and aids and many other items, where possible they will also be used to subsidise activities and events.

There is a one off registration fee that is set by the Group Executive which covers the costs of the Welcome pack.

Subs are payable as required by the Group Executive and are reviewed annually. Warning will be given of any changes in the fees payable. The Group may consider the suspension of any young person whose subs are not paid by the forth week of the beginning of the term.

If any member has difficulties then please notify the Group Scout Leader, alternative arrangements may be offered. Every effort will be made to help people with financial difficulties, do not be afraid to ask, there are ways we can assist.

4. OUTINGS, EXPEDITIONS AND CAMPS

Special events are organised from time to time in accordance with the strict rules of the Scout Association. Full details of such events will be published in advance, with details of any extra fees as soon as they are available. These extra fees will be kept as low as possible but their payment will often be a condition of attendance on the activity.

Leaders are not permitted to give young people lifts to or from section meetings but may assist to get transport arranged.

5. PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

In common with most organisations, whilst the utmost care will be given, the Group and its Leaders do not accept any liability for loss or damage to any item of clothing, money or personal equipment howsoever it may occur.

6. BEHAVIOUR

Please see the **CODE OF CONDUCT** for details regarding the expected standards of behaviour

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Scout Association, Group and Leaders are responsible for the safety of the young people during meeting times and whilst engaged in any group activities (including providing transport to/from such activities). It is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the young person is delivered safely to the appropriate venue at the appointed time and collected promptly when the meeting or activity is over. Leaders will not be held responsible for the young people under other circumstances unless special arrangements have been made. **Please ensure Beaver and Cub Scouts are not left until you have checked there are two leaders present.**



CODE OF CONDUCT

AIMS

- To promote appropriate behaviour during all Scouting activities
- To develop and maintain a positive, safe, respectful environment
- To reward good behaviour and manage unacceptable behaviour

Golden Rules

DO

- Be helpful, kind and polite
- As you are asked
- Respect other people
- Respect all property
- Listen to others
- Take turns

DO NOT

- Fight, hit or kick
- Swear or shout
- Make rude signs or gestures
- Bully
- Make racial or hateful comments
- Take anything that is not yours

CARD SYSTEM

If a rule has been broken a leader may issue;

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 st offence | - YELLOW CARD |
| 2 ND offence | - RED CARD |

Serious incidents will lead to an immediate **RED CARD**.

Issue of either card may lead to a verbal warning in the presence of a parent / carer that day.

A second **RED CARD** per term will lead to a written warning to a parent / carer.

A third **RED CARD** per term may result in suspension, and a meeting, with parents / carers to discuss how to best resolve the issue.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR WILL BE REWARDED!!!



LEADER CONTACT LIST

Group Scout Leader

GSL

Damian Stoneham

Beaver Colony

Beaver Scout Leader

Sue Barber

Cub Pack

Cub Scout Leader

Rachel Sumner

Scout Troop

Scout Leader

Robert Kent



ADULT SUPPORT – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We do our utmost to involve parents/guardians in what their children are doing. This may be as simple as letting you know what is going on within the Group on a regular basis. It may be requests for help with a particular fundraising activity or event, or perhaps an invitation to join the adults as a regular member of the adult team.

There are many and varied ways in which you can help us, four of the most important are;

- **Return the photo consent form**
- **Return the enclosed gift aid form**

This enables us to claim the tax back on your subscription fees, an easy and very worthwhile way of raising significant funds for the Group.

- **Complete and return a CRB form for one or more parents/carer**

The CRB form is a requirement of the Scout Association for any adult that wishes to get involved in working with the young people. It is part of our Child Protection Policy. By getting parents/guardians CRB cleared as soon as possible it means you can help us out here and there and join in the fun whenever possible.

The check is for any convictions or records that show an adult is not suitable to be working with children, other convictions are not relevant, driving offences in particular are not an issue. The check is completely confidential, no-one in the Group sees details of convictions, and the result is limited to a simple 'yes' or 'no' result. If in doubt, ask.

There is no obligation to become a leader / helper, but it means you can at least help us with the odd task, and take part in events with your children on the odd occasion.

Please fill the form in black ink and bring it to a leader, along with the forms of identification, this will be checked by the Group Scout Leader and ID returned promptly. OR, arrangements can be made to view ID at home, just ask a leader.

If you do not fill a CRB form in then you will not be permitted to take part in any activities with the young people that may result in unsupervised access, and then you'd miss out!!!

The check is completely free, you will receive a certificate, and you may find it useful in your personal or work life to show that you have had such clearance.

- **Volunteer!**

We could not exist without our adult team, and they do it because they understand the value of what we do, and find it very rewarding to work with young people. More than ever our children need constructive support as they develop, and we strive to give them the best that we can give.

We are always in need of more leaders / helpers, it can be challenging, but is very rewarding; just ask for more details, with no obligation.

If any of you were Scouts or even leaders in the past, your time has come once more, get in touch!

WHERE TO BUY UNIFORM

The Group has its own uniform shop run by a member of the Executive committee which will be open for a few weeks a term and by request, so if you require anything please do not hesitate to ask. It will have a small amount of uniform and scouting items and will be able to order if not in stock.

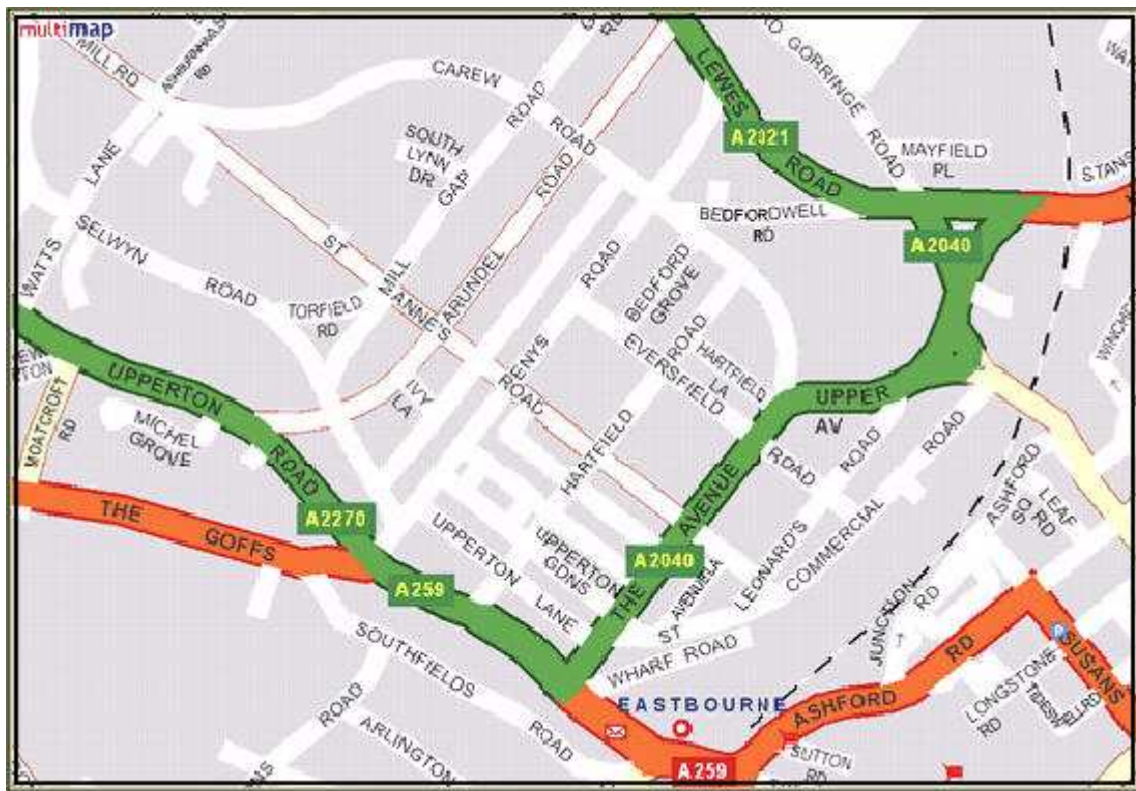
The Eastbourne District Scout-Shop is the only place where you can buy Scout uniform in Eastbourne. It is situated at the Girl Guides HQ in Hartfield Lane.

The shop is open from 4.00pm until 6.00pm every Tuesday (during school term time).

Maggie and her experienced staff of Scouters will be on hand to help you buy all the right uniform and advise on equipment purchases, including good quality approved camping equipment.

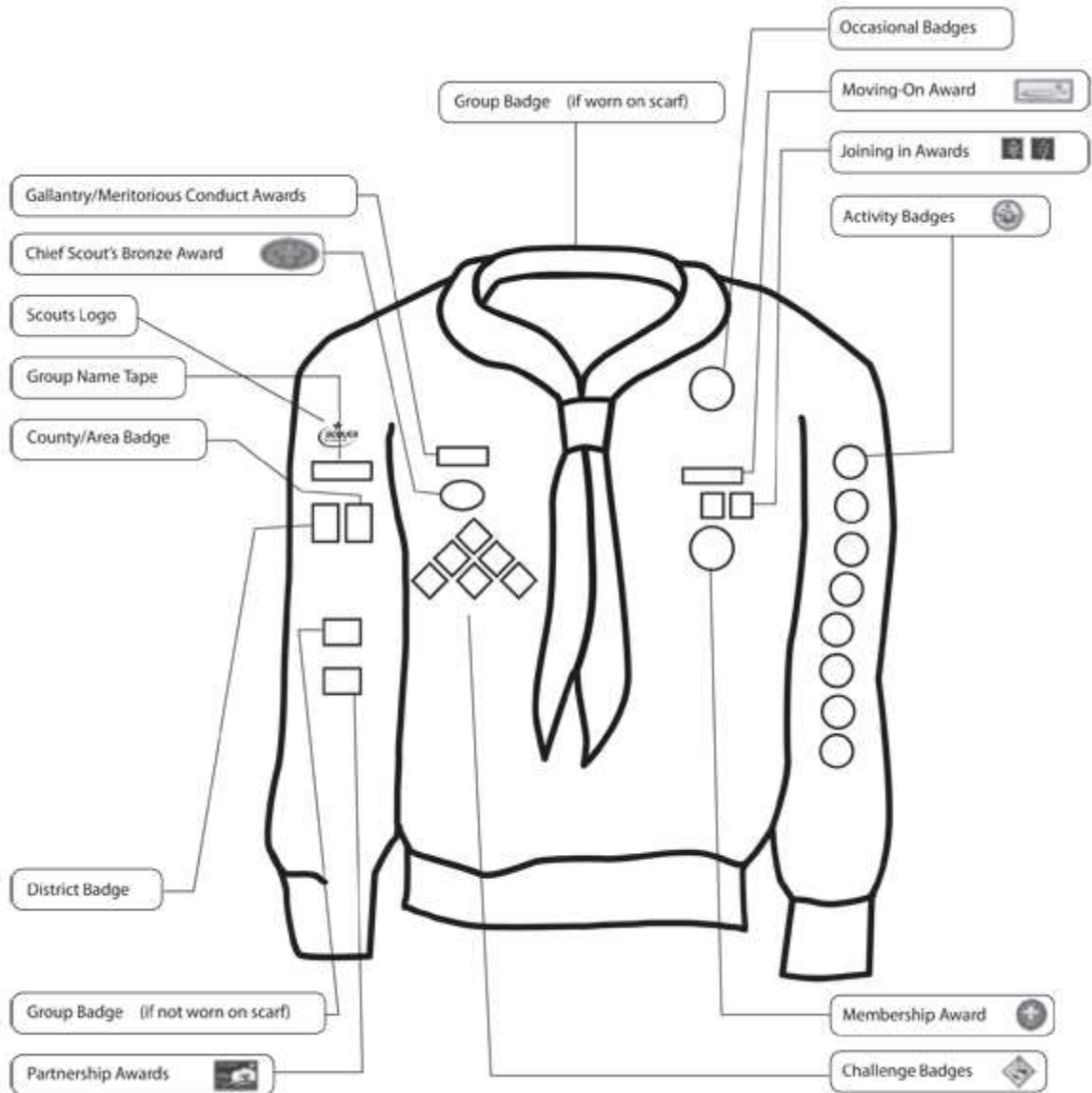
Uniform can also be ordered directly from the official Scout Association Outdoors Shop;

www.scouting.outdoors.ltd.uk



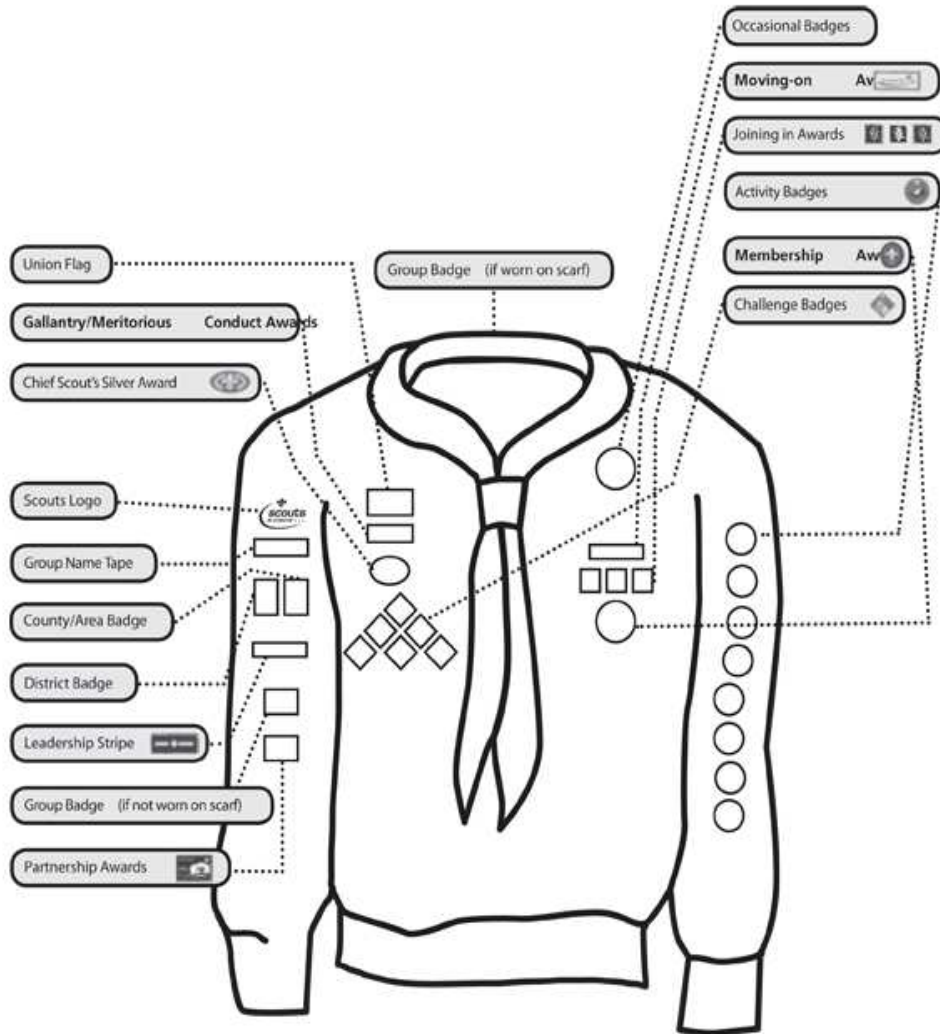
UNIFORM GUIDE

BEAVER BADGES



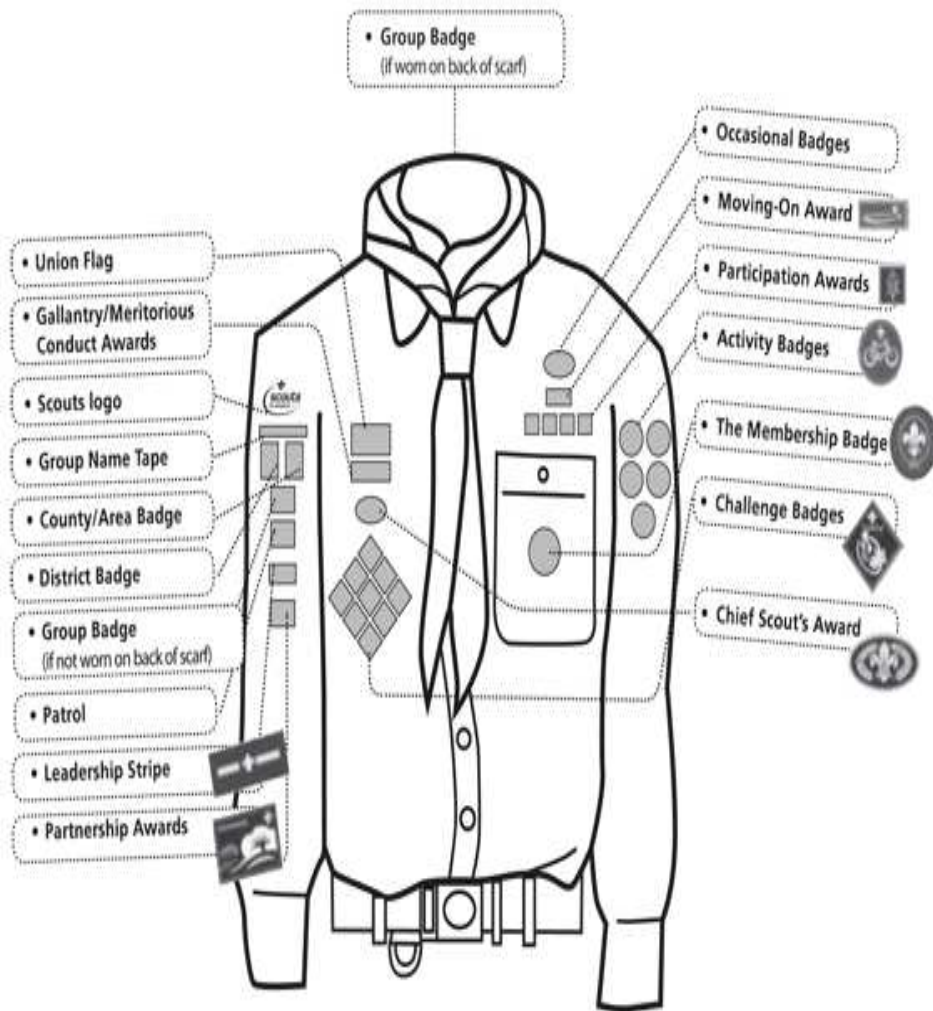
UNIFORM GUIDE

CUB BADGES



UNIFORM GUIDE

SCOUT BADGES





Fundamentals of Scouting

Scouting is much more than just an activity club for young people. Scouting is a worldwide, values based, educational movement.

In the movement, we believe that the world is a better place when people:

- Are trustworthy, self-controlled and self-confident
- Have self-respect and respect for others
- Work together to serve other people and to improve society
- Show responsibility towards the natural world
- Have proper respect for possessions and property
- Have an active religious faith

Membership of the movement is voluntary and available to all who accept its principles.

ALL of us in scouting, from the youngest Beaver Scout through to the Chief Scout, follow three **Key Principles**:

- Duty to Self
- Duty to Others
- Duty to God

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting in the UK is organised through The Scouting Association. The Scouting Association is clear about its purpose.

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.

Even if we can't solve all of the problems in the world, we can help to make it a better place. We do this by helping young people to develop as active members of the community.

The Promise and Law



Everyone in Scouting expresses their Membership and acceptance of the **three key Principles** by taking the Scout Promise and following the Scout Law.

Cub Scouts have their own special Promise and Law, suitable for their age range. Beaver Scouts have their own Promise.

The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love God.

The Cub Scout Promise

I promise that I will do my best to do My duty to God and the Queen, To help other people and keep the Cub Scout Law.

The Scout Promise

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.

Motto

Be prepared, fun and friends

The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best, think of others before themselves and do a good turn every day.

The Scout Law

A Scout is to be trusted.
A Scout is loyal
A Scout is friendly and considerate.
A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.