

WELCOME PACK

Welcome to Scouting and the 5th Woodley Scout Family



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.

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. 5th Woodley was established in 1974.

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:-

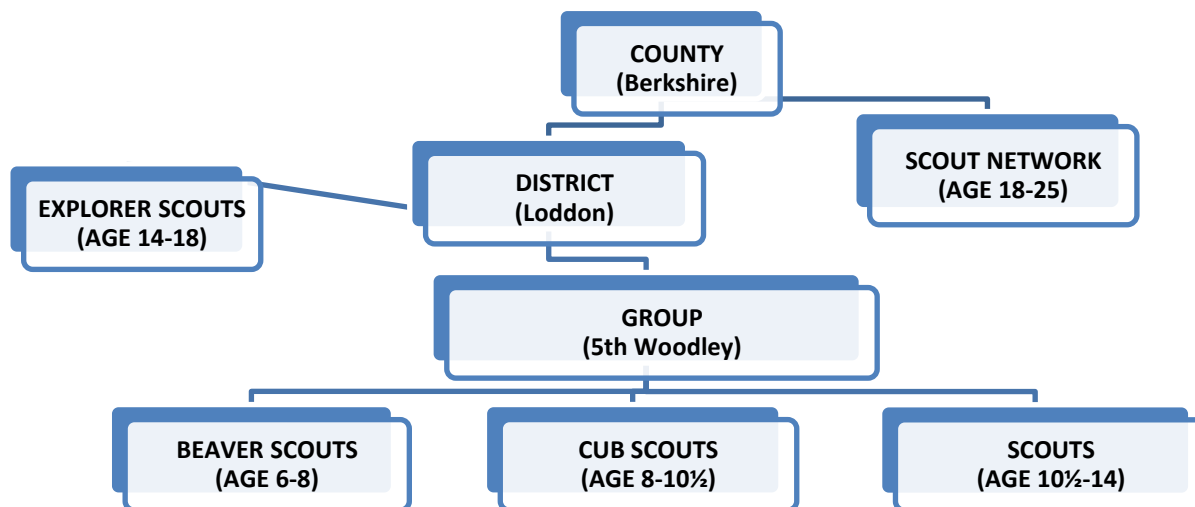
- ❖ *Scouting provides a unique package of inter-related benefits: having fun, building relationships, taking part in activities as well as the opportunity to contribute to the community.*
- ❖ *Scouting develops the leaders of today and tomorrow. External organisations said that staff who had been involved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

There are 400,000 young people in UK Scouting, spread across five age ranges: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and the Scout Network. Each section has its own balanced programme of activities, badges and awards - our 100,000 UK adult volunteers help deliver this.

The structure of the age groups within Scouting are shown on the diagram below:



How is the Group set up?

Both Beaver colonies feed both Cub packs and both Cub Packs feed both Scout Troops.

We have two **Beaver Colonies:**

Grasshoppers meet on Tuesday evenings.
Crickets meet on Thursday evenings.

Time: 17:45 to 18:45
Time: 17:45 to 18:45

We have two **Cub Packs:**

Wasps meet on Tuesday evenings.
Hornets meet on Thursday evenings

Time: 19:00 to 20:30
Time: 19:00 to 20:30

We have two **Scout Troops:**

Darwin meet on Wednesday evenings
Grenfell meet on Friday evenings.

Time: 19:00 to 21:00
Time: 19:30 to 21:30



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.



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 interest and challenge them. A Cubs meeting consists of games and activities with plenty of time spent outdoors. Camps are some of the most memorable events of the year for Cubs.



Each **Scout Troop** consists of small units of 6-8 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..



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.



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.

How is the Group run? The Group is managed by the Executive Committee comprising of parents and leaders – all are volunteers. Many parents help with the running of the Group. If nobody helps then the Group will disappear. If you would like to help in any way, no matter how small, then please do not hesitate to ask any Leader or member of the Executive.

How is the Group funded? The Group is totally self-funded. We receive no money from the Scout Association - indeed we pay them a fee based on the number of people invested in the Group. Your subscription and monies from fund raising by parents supports the Group. Additionally, we can reclaim back from the Inland Revenue 28p for every £1 you pay at no extra cost to yourself. The government has made it easier for organisations to reclaim this by parents just saying in writing that they wish to donate to the Group. All you have to do is simply fill in the Gift Aid Donation slip on the Bankers Order Form (you must be an income tax payer to sign).

How do I pay? We ask all parents to pay by standing order. There is a one-off £10 joining fee which includes the cost of a group T-shirt, Necker and Badges, and then a quarterly subscription of £30 taken on 31st January, 30th April, 31st July and 31st October each year.

Please note that it is the parent's responsibility to cancel the standing order when their child leaves the Group. No refunds will be given for overpayment. Please advise the section leader if your child stops attending.

Please complete the Bankers Order Form and return together with a cheque for £40 to 5th Woodley Scout Group (£10 joining fee plus £30 first quarter subs) and completed Membership Application Form.

We ask that you let us know of any changes to emergency contact details or any changes in your child's medical details.

Where does the money go? About one third of your subscriptions covers the levy we pay to the Scout Association, half covers the cost of running the hut and the remaining goes towards equipment, badges etc. We rely heavily on fundraising to provide major items of equipment and to carry out major repairs on the hut. Leaders are voluntary and receive no payment for running the Group.

What happens next? Following receipt of your application, the appropriate section leader will explain when and how your child will join the Group. Each Section runs its own programme and puts on events to which parents are invited. The Group holds special activities for all the Sections throughout the year together with fundraising activities. Parents attend some of these activities which include the Family Camping Weekend and Barbeques. They also help in fundraising events including Woodley Pagoda sales, Carnival, Raffles etc.

Uniform Each section (Beavers / Cubs / Scouts) have their own uniform. This can be purchased from a variety of locations but we actively encourage people to use the local Scout Shop which is run by Loddon District. All profits from the shop are fed back into Scouting and returned to the Scout Groups based on their share of trade.

Scout Shop 1st Woodley Scouts, The Close, Southlake Crescent, Woodley RG5 3QL
It is open on **Thursdays: 15:00 to 17:00 & 17:00 to 21:00** and **Saturdays: 10:00 to 12:00**.
This shop is staffed by volunteers and 5th Woodley get a dividend, based on the sales to our Group members.

5th Woodley specific clothing You can also buy from the group a small amount of 5th Woodley specific clothing: T-shirts, caps, beanie hats and hi-visibility bags. These are useful for camps and summer activities and in particular when we attend wider Scouting events to help identify our young people. The clothing is held at the scout hut and available from the Leaders.

Keeping up to date Other than of course talking to the children and parents during the meetings, we use email as our primary source of communication. We do not pass email addresses to anyone that does not need it as part of looking after your child during a meeting or activity. We have a website www.5thwoodley.org.uk, a Twitter @5thwoodley account and on Facebook a 5th Woodley group for parents and public page www.facebook.com/5thwoodleyscoutgroup.

Your child's attendance It is really important that you keep your Leader up to date when your child is unable to attend, whether it be because you are away on holiday or your child is sick. This helps us to monitor our numbers each week. In the situation where you have **not** been able to advise your Leader, we do in fact operate a system whereby; if we have 3 consecutive absences without good reason, we will revoke your child's subscription to 5th Woodley. We hope that this does not happen, but if it does you will be notified by a phone call and via email. It will then be that Leader's discretion as to what action to take therein.

DBS (Disclosure Barring Service)

Dear Parents

Due to the national Child Protection Act, any adult who comes into contact with any child within the 5th Woodley Scout Group environment has to be what is called, "DBS checked". This means a police check to make sure that no-one we let near your children has anything on record which might mean they could put your child at risk. We're sure that plenty of you may have already come across this at work or perhaps other leisure activities and appreciate that we have to do this to ensure the safety of your child - something we all care deeply about.

If we could get every parent of every child within 5th Woodley "DBS cleared" it would mean that any parent could attend/help out at any activity we may run in the future. It would also mean that we do not have to stop and check who we can let in to help and who we cannot.

We would therefore ask that they you complete the DBS form and provide the two proofs of identity needed (sorry, even if we've known you for years - even leaders who have been Scouting for a long time had to do this). The form will then be sent off and we will get back notification that it is OK to have you with the children.

Please ask your child's section leader for a form - which has to be completed at the hut - and bring your identity proofs with you (e.g. driving licence, passport, NI number and a utility bill of some sort) and a utility bill or bank statement (we don't need to see the figures!) as we need to verify your address. Thank you.

5th Woodley Scout Group

PHOTOGRAPY AND VIDEOS

Dear Parents

We like to display photos of the children within 5th Woodley Scout Group in the hut (without names on). We also occasionally invite the press to take pictures of certain events (without names) e.g outside visits, cool camp etc.

In the specific event that a name appearing would be suitable, separate permission would be sought for this.

Please, if you would rather you did not have your child appear in such photos please notify us in writing or by email to info@5thwoodley.org.uk, thank you.

If you have any concerns and wish to discuss these, please feel free to contact your child's group leader. Many thanks.

5th Woodley Scout Group

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Start Date: _____		
Joining (please circle):- Cubs: Wasps(Tues) / Hornets (Thurs)		Beavers: Grasshoppers (Tues) / Crickets (Thurs) Scouts Darwin (Wed) / Grenfell (Fri)
Surname:	Forename(s):	Date of Birth:
Family name if not Surname:		School :
Ethnic Origin – please tick (This information is requested by Scout HQ)		
Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	Black <input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Race <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Address:		Post Code:
Home Tel:	Parent Mobile Phone:	
Parent's Email:	Child's email:	
Emergency Contact Name:	Telephone:	
Any health problems, allergies or special needs? (speak to section leader if confidential)		
If necessary continue on reverse		
Any expertise you can offer the Group?		
<p>I accept that the Scout Group will be keeping information about my child's membership of the Scout Movement for Scouting purposes.</p> <p>I give explicit consent to the holding of information of my child's health; disabilities; religion/faith; race/ethnic origin again for Scouting purposes.</p> <p>I give / do not give consent to the disclosure of any information held to third parties associated with the Scout Movement in order that they may offer products and services which may be of interest. (Please circle.)</p>		
Signed:	Date:	

Please enclose this form along with a cheque made payable to **5th Woodley Scout Group** for **£40.00** (includes £10 joining fee and first quarter subs of £30) along with the signed Bankers Order Form to a Leader. If you have more than one child at 5th Woodley, we require a banker's order form for each child.

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

Name of your Bank:		Your Name:	
Address of Bank:		Your Address:	
	Post Code:		Post Code:

Your Bank Account Number:								
Your Bank Sort Code:			-			-		

Dear Sirs,

I, _____ (your name) request you to pay to

Barclays Bank, Reading Branch , PO Box 27, Reading, RG1 2HN

for the credit of '5th Woodley Scout Group' Account No: 00371416 Sort Code: 20-71-03

the sum of **Thirty pounds (£30) quarterly**, until this order is cancelled in writing.

The order is to start on the last day of the month of **Jan / Apr / Jul / Oct 20**__

Please quote the reference: _____ (your child's name)

This instruction cancels any previous instruction in favour of 5th Woodley Scout Group with the above reference.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

GIFT AID DONATION

I confirm that :

- I would like 5th Woodley Scout Group to treat the subscription I pay from today's date as Gift Aid Donations, until I notify you in writing otherwise,
- I am an income tax payer.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Print Name: _____

Please note: It is your responsibility to cancel this standing order with your bank when your child leaves the Group. Please notify the section leader or membership secretary in writing when your child has stopped attending.

Office use: Bank reference:.....Date sent:..... Start: