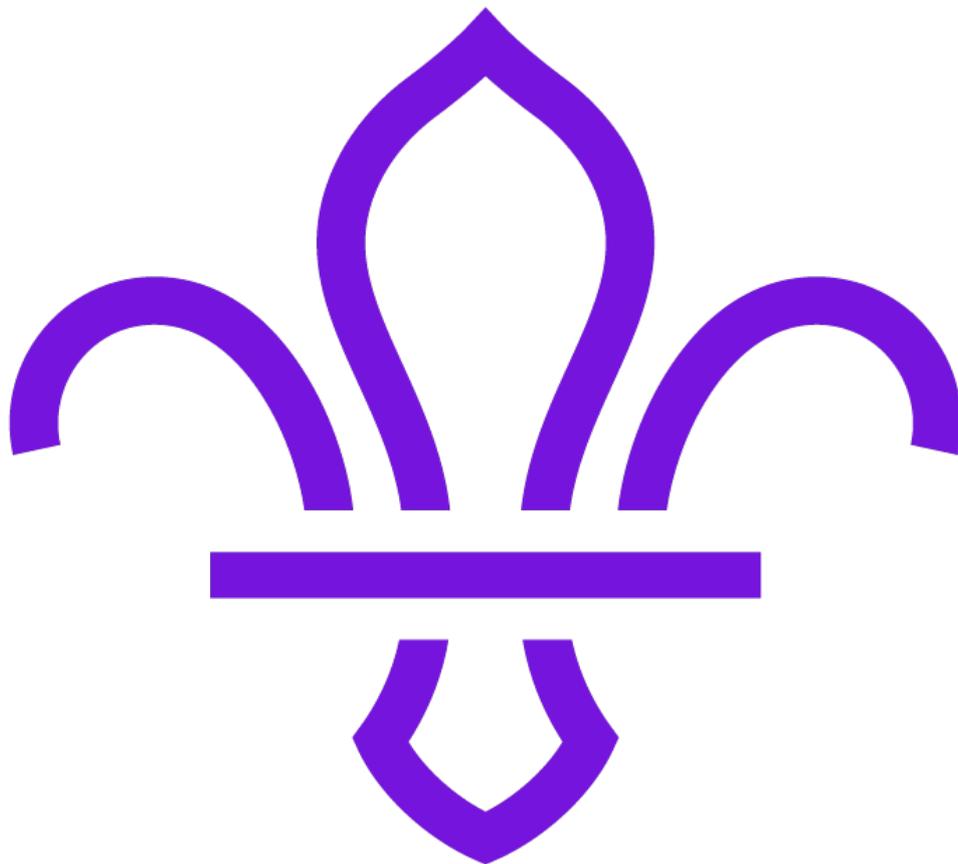


**Welcome to
14th SWC Scouts**





Dear Parent/Guardian

Can I wish you a very warm welcome to our group.

This welcome pack will hopefully answer any questions that you may have regarding the Scout Association and our group.

If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alex & Nic

Group Scout Leader/Assistant Group Scout Leader

*The contact details of each Section Leader are listed towards the back of this pack

What is Scouting

Scouting is an international movement with over 28 million members worldwide, spread through 216 countries and territories. The number of countries recognising the value of Scouting and accepting its principles is increasing and there are only six countries in the world who do not offer Scouting to young people.

The Scout Association in the UK accepts members of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and offers equal opportunities for both boys and girls no matter what their social, religious or ethnic background may be.

During the spring of 2002 the Scout Association launched a new program for young people aged 6-25. This was the largest change to our curriculum for nearly 40 years. A careful strategy of change management was devised to help people move forward, delivering a totally new way of providing Scouting, to the 14-25 age range.

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting in the UK is organised through The Scout Association. The Scout Association 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 Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- **Integrity:** We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal
- **Respect:** We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care:** We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief:** We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Cooperation:** We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends

The Scout Method

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; and
- make and live by their Promise.

They do this by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences exploring the outdoors participating in teams taking responsibility.

Our method for giving young people the opportunity to learn by doing is called the Programme. The Programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people do in Scouting from the ages of 6 to 25.

All adults in Scouting have a responsibility to make sure that the Programme is fun and exciting. We must also make sure that it is safe. The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, advice on child protection and safety are there to help adults make sure that the young people in their care stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

The Scout Promise

The Promise and Law are the simple way in which we help young people and adults to remember and think about the fundamentals of Scouting. It is therefore vital that every Member considers the Promise and discusses its meaning before making the Promise and being invested into Scouting.

There are three versions of the Promise, each version is written to be appropriate to the broad level of understanding to each of the age groups within the Movement. The core promise is;

'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'

Scouting is available to people of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and therefore must therefore take account of the different religious obligations or non- religious beliefs of its Members.

Similarly, people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom, who may become Members of the Association, owe allegiance to their own Country. To meet these circumstances, there are different variations of the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Promise that can be made, allowing for the individuals obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.

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 and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

The Scout Moto

Be Prepared!

The Five Sections

Irrespective of a member's age, a young person in the Movement is a 'Scout'.

The balanced Programme spans the 6-25 age range which is made up of five Sections. Each Section has its own identity, ethos and style. They all have adult support that varies in style across the different age groups.

- Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between six and eight. (6-month flexibility applies)
- Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8 - 10 1/2. (6-month flexibility applies)
- Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10 1/2 - 14 years (6-month flexibility applies)

These are all part of the Scout Group.

An Explorer Scout Unit is for young people from 14-18 years old. Explorer Scout Units are part of a Scout District (South West Cheshire Scouts), although some are attached to Groups.

A Scout Network is for young people aged 18 - 25 years old. Scout Networks are the responsibility of the Scout County (Cheshire Scouts).

There are several important things, which make Scouting different from many other youth organisations:

- We are a uniformed movement
- We use 'Sixes' and 'Patrols' of about 6 young people who work together, learning from and supporting each other
- We involve young people in decision making as part of their development

The Beaver Colony

A Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between 6 and 8 years old (6-month flexibility applies). They meet together as a Colony and work within small groups called 'Lodges'. A team of adults will run the Beaver Scout Colony. Beavers take part in a wide range of activities. These include making things, singing, playing games, going on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories etc. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the leadership team.

Beaver Scouts:

Learn about themselves – exploring their feelings and developing good habits of health and personal safety.

Get to know people – finding out about people in their family, the family of Scouting, the local community and the wider world

Explore - discovering the exciting world of science, nature and technology, exploring the natural and man-made world

Care - growing and responding to the needs of others, the local community and the wider world.

Beaver Scout work towards challenge awards, which are awarded by taking part in the regular programme. With hard work and regular attendance Beavers can gain their Bronze Award, which is presented in a district ceremony.

Beavers also have the opportunity to gain Activity Badges, which they can work towards both inside and outside pack meetings.

Meetings

Our Beaver Colony meets on Monday evenings 17:30 to 18:30

The Cub Pack

A Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8-10 1/2 years old (6-month flexibility applies). Cub Scouts meet together as a Pack and work within a variety of small groups called 'Sixes'. A team of adults will run the Cub Scout Pack, usually led by an Akela, some will be uniformed leaders' others may be sectional assistants, helpers or parents.

Cubs take part in a wide range of activities that are designed to be interesting and to challenge them. At the same time, they have fun, adventure and make friends along the way. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the Leadership team such as: camping, playing games, trying new things and exploring the outdoors.

Cub Scouts work towards awards and badges. The Cub Scout Membership Award is presented to new Cub Scouts once they have learnt about the traditions and history of Scouting and about being a Cub Scout today. Activity badges are specialist interest badges that can further develop a Cub Scout's interest. They can also form the basis for special events and some are geared at the whole pack working together. With hard work and regular attendance Cub Scouts can gain their Silver Award, which is presented in a district ceremony.

Camps and outings are the most memorable events during the year. They are the chance to carry out activities that are not possible at the regular weekly meeting.

Akela, the Cub Scout Leader, who has overall responsibility for the Pack, will lead the Leadership Team.

It is however, very much a team effort with everyone having something to offer.

Meetings

Our Cub Pack meets on Monday evenings 18:30 to 19:45

The Scout Troop

A Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10 1/2 - 14 years old (6-month flexibility applies). Scouts meet together as a Troop and work within a variety of small groups called 'Patrols' lead by a Scout Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders work with the Leadership Team in setting the programme and in decisions affecting the Troop. The Patrol system is one of the important ways that young people can take responsibility for themselves and others.

A volunteer leadership team made up of uniformed Leaders and other informal Assistants and helpers will guide the Troop.

Scouting has a reputation as an outdoor organisation based on strong traditions of camping and other outdoor pursuits.

Scouts work towards challenge awards, culminating in the Chief Scouts Gold Award, which is presented in a county ceremony by the County Commissioner. Scouts also have the opportunity to gain a wide range of activity badges by working inside and outside troop meetings. Most of the badges and awards in Scouts require independent work by the scouts themselves.

Most Troops will offer a number of events away from home during the year, and very often a summer camp. These are important to the life of the Troop, as they are the culmination of much of the training during the year.

Meetings

Our Scout Troop meets on Tuesday evenings 18:30 to 20:30.

How Much Does It Cost?

Scout Groups charge subscriptions to cover cost of equipment and the resources to enable us to deliver good quality Scouting. Part of those subscriptions (subs) go towards the annual membership fee paid to headquarters for the day-to-day running of The Scout Association that includes insurance for all members.

The annual subscription is £144 for all three sections.

Subs are collected monthly at £12.00. Payment is via standing order, cash or cheque and is monitored through our online system called OSM.

For young people trying out scouting, the first month is free of charge.

When the young person is first invested at the group, the treasurer will email you with payment options.

Financial Help

We appreciate that funds can sometimes be tight. If you need a bit of help with the cost of a camp etc. or if you want to spread the payments, then please have a quiet chat with one of the Leaders. We are as flexible as possible and would rather know in advance than be chasing you later!

We are keen that everyone has the opportunity to attend at least one group camp each year.

It is not our policy to exclude any young person from an activity because of cost.

Gift Aid

The Group is now able to recover income tax on any donation (including subs) provided a declaration has been made to cover the tax reclaim. Donations may now be of any value. The only criteria is that the individual making the donation has to pay income tax or capital gains tax of at least the amount to be recovered by the Group. If you pay by cheque, the name on the cheque must match the Gift Aid declaration.

After your child has been invested the treasurer will email you asking you to complete declaration, up to 25p in each £1 can be claimed back by the Group from the 'Tax Man'. This will really help the Groups finances and cut down the pressure on the essential fundraising!

Parental Support & Adult Help

Scouting depends on its adult volunteers and we would welcome your involvement.

As a parent of a group member, as a minimum we expect you to help out for one evening with your young person's section each term if required.

Maybe you could help in one of the following ways and join the adventure that Scouting offers adults as well as young people?

Did you know that we can offer you:

- Nationally recognised training, typical qualifications can include First Aid, and qualifications in activities, such as climbing, water sports, sailing, archery and even chainsaw use.
- You can also achieve tutoring qualifications in any/all of our activities.
- Offering a skill to help train or help one of the sections for a badge or award.
- Help to transport equipment to any event away from the hall.
- Support the Scout Group at social evenings
- Support the Groups fund raising activities.
- Join the Executive committee and help manage the Scout Group

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader or a helper on a regular or occasional basis please speak to a leader. No previous experience is necessary, as training will be provided.

There is no payment for being a leader (except expenses), but you can expect lots of fun and to make many friends!

Notification of New Member/Change of Details

The information which you give on the membership form or via the waiting list will be used by the Leader of your son's/daughter's section. This information is entered into our online system called OSM that all the leaders have access to. A further copy will go to the Treasurer (for subscription and Gift Aid purposes only).

You will be email every six months asking you to update your records to ensure our records are kept up to date.

Remember to inform your section leader of any changes to the details shown on OSM.

Communication with Parents

The Scout Group generates lots of information and instructions for Members and their parents / guardians. 95% of this information is held within our online system called OSM which members can access 24hrs a day.

You will find that the leaders of each Section have their own preferred mechanisms, but these include

- OSM giving full details of upcoming programme, activities, badge progress, payment of subs and activity fees.
- The website has term programme information per section, articles, reports and photographs from events and activities.
- Emails giving programme & activity invites, updates and reminders.
- A termly programme, listing the activities, locations and, where possible, equipment needed
- Text messages for urgent information or during an event / activity
- Facebook & Twitter for general updates, events and discussions

We make every effort to rationalise the information, but it is important that you read and respond promptly to messages to ensure that your young person does not miss out.

It goes without saying that if you have any questions or concerns; please raise them with the Group Scout Leader or Assistant Group Scout Leader details can be found on the last page.

OSM

Online Scout Manager (OSM) is the online computer system used to manage our Scout Group. OSM allows parents to:

- View the term's programme.
- See information about upcoming events and activities.
- See and edit your personal details.
- Find out which badges your child has achieved, and which ones they are working towards.
- Pay for activities through our secure payment provider, GoCardless.



Parents receive an email invite to OSM when their child joins our group. This email contains a secure link allowing you to access your child's information. Only someone with that link has access your child's information.

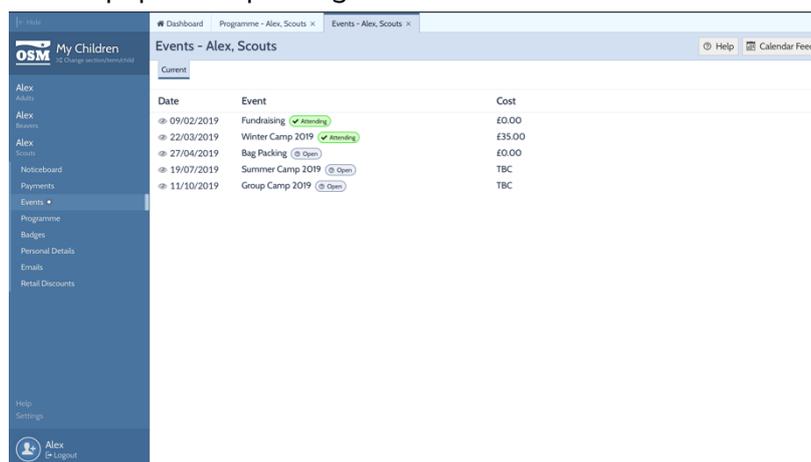
Once you have clicked the link, you can take a look around OSM. We recommend that you create a OSM account for yourself so that you don't need to keep clicking the email link to access OSM.

Why are we using OSM?

OSM means that parents are able to access more information about their child's Scouting, and means that all of the information you need about activities or events is secure and accessible at any time. No more Scouts losing letters on the way home!

OSM also sends out emails about activities and events to your registered email address which means that we can cut down on the amount of paper and printing that we do.

Security - Online Scout Manager is used by over 90% of Scout Groups in the UK. The system has been designed from the start to be as secure as possible – and uses the same encryption and security methods as major banks and other secure websites.



Date	Event	Cost
09/02/2019	Fundraising ✓ Attending	£0.00
22/03/2019	Winter Camp 2019 ✓ Attending	£35.00
27/04/2019	Bag Packing 🔓 Open	£0.00
19/07/2019	Summer Camp 2019 🔓 Open	TBC
11/10/2019	Group Camp 2019 🔓 Open	TBC

When you make a payment through OSM, your payment details are processed securely by GoCardless, who are registered with the FSA and sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland. All payments through OSM are protected by the Direct Debit Guarantee meaning that your money is protected by law at all times.

You can find out more about OSM on our website.

Meet the Team

Group Chairperson : Sean	chairperson@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Group Secretary : Liz	secretary@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Group Treasurer : Jayne	treasurer@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Group Scout Leader (GSL) : Alex	gsl@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL) : Nic	gsl@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) : Nic	weston14thscouts@aol.com
Cub Scout Leader (CSL) : Daniel (Akela)	cubs@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk
Scout Leader (SL) : Alex	scouts@westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk

Useful Links

Group Website:	westonandwychwoodscouts.org.uk/
Group Facebook Page:	www.facebook.com/14thSWC/
Group Twitter Page:	twitter.com/14thSWCScouts
District Website:	swcscouts.org.uk
County Website:	www.cheshirescouts.org.uk
National Website:	scouts.org.uk/