



Scouts

15th Sevenoaks (OTFORD)

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

WELCOME PACK

We are delighted that your child is to join us, the 15th Sevenoaks (Oxford) Scout Group. This welcome pack should provide you with some basic information that you will need.

Scouting

The Scout Movement started in 1907 by Robert Baden Powell and today Scouting is a global co-educational youth organisation, the largest in the world, with over 40 million members in 216 countries.

In the UK, Scouting is organised through The Scout Association which offers varied activities and adventure to almost 400,000 young people across the Country. Scouting is available to young people aged from 6 to 25 years, of every faith, background and ability. Membership is open to all those who share the Scouting values and are willing to make a commitment to them, expressed by the Promise and Law.

The purpose of Scouting; to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, allowing them to make a positive contribution to society.

The values of Scouting; integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation.

The Scout method; young people, with the help and guidance of adults, take part in new, challenging indoor/outdoor activities, learn by doing, share in spiritual reflection, take responsibility/make choices, and live by their promise. And perhaps most importantly; have fun!

A Very Brief History of Scouting in Otford

Scouting in the village started in April 1913. Local boys banded together having been inspired by the book 'Scouting for boys'. They lacked a 'Scout Master' at first; not unusual in the early days. In 1916 a Wolf cub section joined the Troop allowing younger boys to 'Scout'. The Group ran until 1926 when it closed down. Following support from villagers the Group was reborn in March 1930 as the 15th Sevenoaks Scouts. Throughout its history the Group has undertaken a wide range camps throughout the UK and Europe, as well as adventurous activities, ranging from climbing to kayaking. Community service projects have also featured; from collecting/mending broken toys for poorer children to litter picking around Otford in more recent times.

Volunteering

Scouting is run entirely by volunteers and the 15th has a small but dedicated band of leaders and supporters who all believe that scouting brings an important benefit to both the village, and the wider world. There are plenty of opportunities for adults to become involved - as leaders, assistant leaders, parent helpers at camp, at hut maintenance days, helping with fund raising events and as Group supporters/administrators.

If you would like to become involved then please contact one of the leaders. We want as many people as possible to enjoy the benefits that Scouting brings - both young and not so young. And as a volunteer you will have as much fun as the Scouts!

The Scout Sections and meeting times

Oxford Scout Group has four Sections that meet at our Scout Hut.

Beavers	age 6 to 8 years old	Mondays	5pm-6:15pm
Seonnee Cubs	age 8 to 10½ years old	Mondays	6.30pm-8:15pm
Waingunga Cubs	age 8 to 10½ years old	Thursdays	6.30pm-8:15pm
Scouts	age 10½ to 14 years old	Fridays	7.30 & 9pm

At 14 years of age Scouts move onto the Explorers, which are run by Sevenoaks District Scouts. Explorer Units don't have a fixed base, as they cover several Scout Groups in the area.

Meeting place

We meet at the Oxford Scout Hut and grounds which is situated close to the Oxford Train Station. There is vehicle access to the hut for leaders only, please don't attempt to drive down the trackway. We ask everyone to walk and if travelling by car to park in Tudor Drive (footpath access) or the station car park (20 mins free parking at the front).

Online Scout Manager (OSM)

We use a database called Online Scout Manager (OSM) to store all the personal details and badge records for our members. Your leader will send you out an invite to login to your child's account. From here you can view upcoming meetings, sign-up to events, pay subs and upload evidence if working on badges at home.

Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions are £35 per term - due in January, April & September. They are collected by direct debit from Go Cardless via OSM.

Subscriptions help to cover the cost of maintaining the Scout Hut and grounds as well as purchasing equipment, badges and materials for use at meetings. Other activities such as camp, will incur an extra cost, but these are always kept as low as possible.

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

If you are a UK tax payer please fill out the Gift Aid request in OSM so that we can claim the tax back on your subscription at no cost to you.

Facebook group

We have a (closed) Facebook group that posts upcoming events and info of what we have been up to search for "15th Oxford Scout Group" and answer the questions to join.

Uniform

On a normal evening we would expect your child to attend in full uniform. The group scarf is blue with a gold border, this is presented when each member makes their Promise at their Investiture.

Beavers	Turquoise sweatshirt and group scarf
Cub Scouts	Dark green sweatshirt and group scarf
Scouts	Teal green shirt and group scarf

Dark blue uniform 'activity' trousers (which are the same for each section) are highly recommended.

There are also optional polo shirts, available in turquoise for Beaver Scouts and green for Cub Scouts and Scouts or Group T-Shirts.

Uniform is available from several outlets, including the Sevenoaks District scout shop scoutshop.sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Awards and badges

The Scout Programme contains a continuous progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people can do in Scouting from the age of 6 to 25.

Members of all ages can attain **Activity Badges** that cover interests inside and outside of Scouts. These can be awarded at Beaver age for trying new activities and doing their best, but as the Scout progresses the effort and standard needed to attain the badge increases. Beaver activity badges range from creative to exploring, Cubs, astronomy to pioneering and Scouts, athletics to survival skills.

In addition there are fourteen '**Staged Badges**' covering nights away to Navigation. These allow a Scout to build on previous work by either adding requirements to a previous staged badge or increasing the skill/knowledge level of the work already undertaken.

Each section has a number of '**Challenge Badges**'; these can either be done individually or in groups. And they are a challenge! On completion of a set number (dependent on section) 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



The Promise

Our Scout Group is an 'Open Group'; which means that as long as your child meets the general requirements for membership they are welcome to join us as a Scout

To become a member of the Scout Association your child will be asked to make a promise at an investiture ceremony. This can be done at a weekly meeting, during an activity or special event. Otford Scouts have been invested part way through a hike, on the deck of a WW2 destroyer, or whilst half way up/down a climbing wall! No matter where, we always try and make this a special event for the young person, and it will only be done if they are sure they want to be a Scout and are ready to make their promise. You are more than welcome to witness this ceremony.

The promise that they make will be dependent on the section that they are joining. The **core promise** for each section is below; the promise can be altered in a number of ways to take into account religious beliefs; nationality and/or special needs. In making the **core promise** your child will undertake to either "love God" or to do their "duty to God" (or their choice of deity). Whilst we are not attached to any particular religious body the Group does attend St Bartholomew's church for various events during the year.

The Beaver Scout Promise

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

The Beaver Scout Law

(There is no formal Beaver Scout Law)

The Cub Scout Promise

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 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 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.

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 & property
A Scout has self respect and respect
for others

Trips and activities

There are a wide range of activities that members of The Scout Association are allowed to take part in. If it is possible, and there is a enough interest, we will try to organise it.

However, when organising camps, trips and activities we often have to impose a cut off date for responses and take a deposit. This is generally to ensure that there is enough interest and to cover any monies due at time of booking. This also allows us to ensure we have the correct adult to scout ratio, complete all of the necessary risk assessments, collect consent forms and arrange transport etc. These 'cut off' dates will be strictly adhered to. If subsequent to your child being accepted on a trip or activity, they are unable to attend please let us know as soon as possible. We may be able to offer the place to someone else, allowing them the opportunity to take part and possibly refund any deposit paid.

Child Protection, Health and Safety

The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, 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.

It is the policy of The Scout Association (and therefore the Group) to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. For full details please visit the Scouts Associations website.

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

All Leaders and regular helpers are required to have an enhanced criminal record disclosure (DBS). In addition all leaders normally hold a basic first aid qualification and undertaken relevant training.

However, accidents occasionally 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. A general information contact form is attached. Please fill it in. In the event of an emergency this will allow the leader or their nominated person to contact you

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

All information provided is kept in complete confidence. It is normal for us to ask for a new form to be filled in when your child moves sections to ensure that we have up to date information.

Photographs/Video/Audio

The various sections regularly take part in a wide range of activities, organised at a Group, District or County level. The Group will often keep a record (usually photographs) of these activities to add to their histories. (we currently hold an archive of photos from the 1930s, 1960s through to the present day). Young people often like a record as well, to share with family.

In addition, photographs, (including video and audio) of Scouts taking part in events, activities etc can be extremely useful for publicity purposes, internally (e.g. for use on the Group's closed facebook page), externally (sent to local newspapers, 'Scouting Magazine' etc) and on display/notice boards. These records may also be used as a training aid (both adult and young person) or as validation of adult training.

Below is the Group's own guidance.

Your Scout will be in photographs taken during Scouting activities which will then be kept as a record of the event. On occasion, some of these photographs (or video/audio) may be used to promote Scouting by being submitted to local newspapers, Group/District/County newsletters, their websites or by being put on display. If you have any objections and do not want your child's image used in this way please contact the leadership team. Please be aware that we have no control over pictures taken/used by third parties.

Data protection

The Personal information of young people supplied to the Group will be stored so we can keep a full record of their time with us as a Scout. It will also ensure that the leaders are aware of any special needs, allergies etc of that young person whilst they are under their care. Stored contact information will also allow us to keep you informed of upcoming Scouting activities or requirements. The Scout Group is using legitimate interest as the most appropriate lawful basis for processing this information as there is a limited impact on individuals, the processing is of clear benefit to the Scout Group and its members (your child), and by putting your child forward as a member of the Scouting Movement you are unlikely to object to the processing of that information.

Contact Information

Joint Group Scout Leaders (Acting):

Jan Padgett and Sarah Yates

email 15thGSL@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Tel 07702905811 and 07732629313

Beaver Scout Colony

Jan Padgett, Beaver Scout Leader

email jan.padgett@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Tel 07702 905811

Seeonee Cub Scout Pack (Monday)

Jonathan Booth, Cub Scout Leader

email jonathan.booth@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Tel 01959 524954

Waingunga Cub Scout Pack (Thursday)

Jo Toogood and Richard Bell, Assistant Cub Scout Leaders

email waingungacubpack@gmail.com

Scout Troop

Richard Snook

email richard.snook@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Tel 07904414326

Group website www.otfordscouts.org.uk

Facebook: we maintain a 'closed group' page where information and photographs of scouting activities are shared. It is only open to current parents; please ask your leader if you wish to join.

