

1st TWYFORD SCOUT GROUP



WHAT IS SCOUTING?

Scouting is the world's biggest youth movement, with around 200 countries involved. It is non-political, open to both sexes and all religions, with the aim of developing young people mentally, physically and spiritually to become responsible citizens. This is achieved through fun, team work, challenge and adventurous activities. Here in Twyford we work closely with other local Scout Groups, Guides & Brownies.

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We started in 1910 and with the usual peaks and troughs have grown to approximately 200 young people and leaders. We have also increased our profile over the last 20 years to become a well known and respected village organisation. You will find the spirit in the Group to be infectious and the Leaders to be dedicated, hard working and fun loving. They are joined in this by the Group Executive, the team of parents and ex-parents who organise financial support for the Group.

You will be invited to join in with some of the activities, which invariably are both enjoyable and team building. For example, we hold an annual All In (Parent and Child) camp for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with around 120 participants. (You will be surprised to discover just how many people in the village, over the years, have survived this event...) 1st Twyford Scout hospitality is extended to all and many people have so enjoyed their past experiences that they continue helping today.

THE HEADQUARTERS

If you have lived in Twyford for the last few years then doubtless you will know that the HQ and all equipment was destroyed by fire at the end of 2003. Since then we have raised many thousands of pounds for the construction of an impressive and purpose designed new HQ (costing £315,000), on the original site close to Loddon Hall, which was officially opened in April 2007. Project Phoenix was a remarkable feat of organisation, matched only by the generosity of local people, organisations and businesses. We have since completed a separate stores building and the surfacing of our grounds.

THE GROUP

Consists of four sections, covering the age of 6 to 18 years old. The four sections are:

Beaver Scouts:	6-8 year olds:	two colonies - Wednesday/Thursday evenings
Cub Scouts:	8-10 year olds:	three packs - Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings
Scouts:	10-14 year olds:	three troops - Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings
Explorer Scouts:	14-18 year olds:	one District troop - Monday/Wednesday/Friday evenings

It should be noted that we do expect a reasonable standard of behaviour and discipline from all who join.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Each of the sections has a Section Leader, one or more Assistant Leaders and sometimes helpers. These sections are overseen by the Group Scout Leader and Assistant GSLs. To fill these posts - which are entirely voluntary and unpaid, all Leaders are required to pass a DBS check and to undergo appropriate training, including First Aid and Safeguarding. Some Explorer scouts also help some sections in their roles as Young Leaders.

WHAT KIND OF KIT DO I NEED?

To start with the only kit you will need are clothes which are comfortable and suitable for activities. When your child becomes a member of any of the sections you will need the relevant uniform and perhaps a group T-shirt. Your section leader can advise you about that. As a uniformed organisation we expect all invested members to wear their uniform for all meetings & activities unless advised otherwise. We are lucky to have a local District Scout Shop, run by volunteers, that sells uniforms for all sections and we receive a share of the profits. Our 1st Twyford T Shirt can be bought from within our group. Details of both are on our website's Home page.

WHAT DOES SCOUTING COST?

The cost (known as 'Subs') are due the first week of each term. If you are able to pay for a year at a time this is much appreciated as it reduces both our administration time and costs and gives you a discount against the termly rate. From September 2017 the cost for Beavers is £30 per term for 3 terms or £80 a year (£35 per term or £95 per annum for Cubs and Scouts). We accept cash or cheques, but prefer a direct bank transfer that can be set up yourself. Please confirm by email to sheila.hayes243@gmail.com should you choose to do so and she will forward our bank details. We would like you to sign up for Gift Aid if you are a U.K. taxpayer, as this helps us keep the cost of subs down, but it is not compulsory.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS?

Other than your general support, usually very little, but we do require help from time to time with transport to and from various activities, and occasionally with section evenings if there are special activities that require extra supervision. There are, of course, fund raising events, generally two or three a year, which also require additional help from parents. One of our main fund raising activities is the hiring out of marquees and we look to parents to take a couple of turns each summer to help erect them. No experience necessary, and actually quite enjoyable!

OUR POLICY ON BULLYING:

- (i) We have respect for everyone as individuals, whatever their differences
- (ii) We take bullying seriously – it's not 'just a bit of fun'
- (iii) We don't accept any bullying behaviour – name-calling, physical violence, threats, being left out, spreading nasty rumours or any other way of making people feel bad or embarrassed.
- (iv) We do encourage any bullying to be reported, either to a Leader or someone trusted, such as a PL.

CONTACT US:

Section Leader: Phil Hayes 01189 341415 purple@twyfordscouts.org.uk

Group Scout Leader: Tom Toy 0118 9403117 kfctoys44@gmail.com

Subs & Gift Aid: Sheila Hayes 01635 862286 sheila.hayes243@gmail.com

Group Website: www.twyfordscouts.org.uk