



West Herts District Scouts

Akeman Explorer Scout  
Unit

## Welcome to the Akeman Explorer Scout Unit

We are the newest member of the West Herts District, having just formed the Akeman Explorer Unit.

Explorers are aged between 14 and 18 with six months leeway and the unit is open to males and females with the aim that they take part and enjoy an active, exciting, fun, educational and adventurous programme of activities both on a unit basis and with the other District Explorers.

- We meet on a Monday evening from 8.30pm to 10.00pm
- Normally we meet at Gossoms End Scout Hut and on occasions at other areas within the local area.
- We spend most weeks between Easter and September doing outside activities
- As a Unit we aim to have one week long Summer Expedition but there are also opportunities for weekend camps.
- When the opportunities occur the Explorers can take part in competitions and expeditions both at County and District levels.
- There is also the opportunity to take part in sailing during the summer months and a weeks RYA Sailing Course in West Mersea.

### **Uniform**

The Explorer Scout Uniform consists of:

- Beige long sleeve or short sleeve shirt or blouse
- Explorer Scout Scarf and Woggle, the scarf we provide on Investiture.
- Navy blue Scout activity trousers (school trousers are also accepted)
- Smart navy blue skirt (optional trousers can be selected instead)
- Scout belt/Explorer belt and buckle
- Black smart shoes (not trainers)

These can all be bought from The Complete Outdoors at Bourne End or through local scout shops or on web sites supported by the scout movement.

## **Camping**

We try to have at least one Unit Camp every year, the main one being held during the school summer holidays. We spend a week away from the local area and try to include as many different activities as possible including hill walking, climbing, sailing, canoeing and visiting local attractions. The Explorer Scouts will be involved in the decision making and organising of all trips to enable them to get as much as they can out of it.

## **Education**

We are aware that Explorer Scouts have increasing school workloads and during this time with us they have very important examinations, we do try and work around this as best as we can. Whilst missing the odd meeting is understandable, if there are difficulties with attending for a prolonged period or spending time away at any of the camps please speak to one of us to see if we can work around the issues.

## **Activities and Supervision**

Part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities whether they are canoeing, climbing or an expedition to wild country. The Scout Association has strict rules with regard to supervision and regulating the activities and when appropriate, trained authorised instructors are used for these activities.

Part of the Explorer programme is the opportunity to work towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards; we have a District D of E advisor and when new members join us we invite them down to explain the awards scheme to them. The Duke of Edinburgh awards work alongside scouting awards.

On all Explorer events a first aid kit is carried and our leaders have first aid qualifications.

## **Behaviour and Discipline**

As Explorer Scouts are older we hope that their behaviour is of a high standard. We as Leaders expect our unit to behave appropriately and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

Generally, minor incidents will be dealt with at the time by a leader. More serious incidents, such as bullying, will result in us getting in touch with the parents.

## **Commitment and Obligations**

As previously mentioned Explorer Scouts have increasing schoolwork which will mean that sometimes meetings are missed. We would ask that if you are unable to attend a meeting that you let one of us know before hand either by email or telephone. This means we can plan our meetings accordingly.

There are a couple of things we would like all Explorers to attend

- Both St George's Day and Remembrance Sunday.
- We would appreciate it if as many as possible could attend the joint meetings with the other Explorer Units in the District. (This will be about one per term).
- Help when required with District and County Competitions for other sections.
- Take part in at least one overnight event in the year.

## **Money Matters**

### **Making Payments**

We would be grateful if any payments, whether by cash or cheque, are placed in a sealed envelope with the Explorer's name and the reason for the payment on the front with any relevant paperwork enclosed as well. These should then be passed onto one of the Leaders at the beginning of the evening.

### **Subs**

Subs are collected once a year in January. Explorer Scouts Subs are based on an amount discussed with District and the other Explorer Scout Leaders. The annual fees for the year are £ 60.00 plus £30 to go towards the running of the weekly meetings, equivalent to £90.00 per year.

We have decided to do it in this way so that we do not have to charge extra odd £1.00 for evening activities. There will be a charge if any extra activities take place such as camps, climbing, Quasar, sailing etc.

The Subs are broken down as follows

- Annual fees to District, County and National bodies for insurance and leader training. This is called a Capitation Fee
- Money is required to cover the rental of both a hut and equipment. We currently pay Gossoms End Scouts £ 10.00 per week rent for the use of their hut.
- Badges
- Scarf's

## **Gift Aid**

If you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid Form. This allows us to get the income tax you paid back on the subs. This gives us approximately £20.00 extra per person.

Explorer Scouting is for all young adults, regardless of their background. Financial help is available to allow Explorers to attend camps and activities who otherwise would be unable to take part. Please contact one of us in the strictest confidence if we can offer help in anyway.

If you have any problems or queries, please do not hesitate to contact one us. We are there to help.

Leader Contact

Explorer Scout Leader

Ivor Gomm

Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

Vic Choudhray

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child into our Unit and wish them every success and hope that they get as much back as we do.