



<http://www.1stgossomsendscouts.org.uk>

## SCOUT'S WELCOME PACK

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A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS  
AND THEIR PARENTS

### Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Troop

We are a highly active part of the West Herts Scouting District. Our members are aged between 10½ and 14, and they take part and enjoy an active, exciting, fun, and adventurous programme of activities.

- We spend most weeks between Easter and late September 'outside'.
- We don't take a break during the Summer holidays to make good use of the extra daylight as much as possible.
- As a troop we camp at least once every year for a week, and there are many opportunities for weekend camps (Including competitions and award based training).
- We meet on Thursday nights from 19:00 – 21:00. Leaders & Patrol Leaders should arrive by 18:45 and everyone else by 18:50 as the meetings start promptly.

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### Uniform

The Scout uniform consists of:-

- Green Scout shirt & Scout activity trousers (available from The Complete Outdoors, Bourne End or from <http://www.outdoors.ltd.uk> ).
  - Black school shoes.
  - A green and yellow neckerchief with woggle - to be supplied when invested.
- Scouts are asked to own a complete uniform. Second hand uniforms are occasionally available. Please ask for help if required.

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## **Camping**

We always have at least one troop camp every year, the main one being during the School Summer Holidays. We spend a week away from the local area and normally include activities such as hill walking, climbing, sailing and a visit to a local attraction.

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## **Activities and Supervision**

Part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities whether they be canoeing, climbing or a walk around a campsite in the dark. The Scout Association has strict rules regulating these activities and, when appropriate, trained instructors are used for activities.

As Scouts get older, they are encouraged to take a leadership role in the Scout Troop. This is always done under the overall supervision of the Scout Leaders, again following nationally set guidelines.

Generally, camps and events run for the whole troop are organised with the older Scouts in liaison with the leaders, whereas smaller patrol events are usually organised by the Patrol Leaders. Information about activities is always circulated in a letter prior to the event. From time to time, training will be arranged in some outdoor sports, such as canoeing, sailing and rock climbing to allow children to gain their own qualifications.

On all Scout events, a first aid kit is carried and at least one leader trained in first aid will be in attendance.

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## **Behaviour & Discipline**

One of the ingredients of a good Scout Troop is underlying discipline. All Scouts are expected to behave appropriately and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

Generally, minor incidents will be dealt with a telling off at the time by the leader in charge. More serious examples, such as bullying, will result in the Scout's parents being contacted, and the Scout possibly being suspended. These measures seem obvious, but we feel it important that all Scouts are aware of what is expected of them. Patrol Leaders and the older Scouts in particular will be asked to set a good example to the younger members of the troop.

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## Commitment and Obligations

Members of 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Troop are expected to take an active role in the activities of the troop. We would hope for the following to be the minimum commitment from a Scout.

- Attend all Scout meetings unless ill or away.
- Take part in at least one overnight event each year.
- Take part in St George's Day Parade in April.
- Attend the Remembrance Day Service in November.

A large number of events are organised for Scouts in the troop. It is hoped that the Scouts will want to take advantage of the activities on offer to them. If Scouts have to miss meetings due to schoolwork or sports commitment, they should talk to the Scout Leader. Scouts who miss three meetings in any month will forfeit their place in the troop unless they contact their Patrol Leader or Scout Leader before the event.

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## Money Matters

### Making Payments

We would be grateful if any payments, whether they are by cash or cheque, are placed in a sealed envelope with the Scout's name and the reason for the payment on the front, please pass these to the section leaders or to the group treasurer.

### Subs

Subs are collected once a year on the registration evening held in January. The amount is currently set at £115 per year. This money covers: -

- Annual fees to District, County and National bodies for insurance and leader training. This is called a capitation fee, and currently stands at £35.15 per year.
- Money is also required to cover the main bills of the hut such as rates, electricity, water and insurance. There is also an on-going amount of general repair and maintenance. However, for major repairs the group still has to look to fund-raising and donations.
- Badges.
- Neckerchiefs
- Equipment needed for Troop meetings.

### Gift Aid - **Please complete the Gift Aid form.**

This allows us to get the income tax you paid back on the subs. This gives us approximately £28 extra per person, for just a signature on your part.

Scouting is for all children, regardless of their background. Financial help is available to allow Scouts to attend camps who otherwise would be unable to take part. Please contact a leader in the strictest of confidence if we can offer help in any way.

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## Leader Contacts

[Scouts@1stgossomscouts.org.uk](mailto:Scouts@1stgossomscouts.org.uk)

If you have any problems or queries, please don't hesitate to contacting any of the leaders. We are there to help you and your child.

If you are interested in helping out with the Troop, or the Group as a whole, please contact us. There are no payments for being a leader or helper, but what you get out of it is much better than that - seeing the children having fun and enjoying themselves and learning valuable life skills. (New enthusiastic members are welcome!)

The Group Executive Committee supports the Scout Group. The role of the committee is to organise fundraising events to support the Group, to purchase new equipment and to maintain the Scout Hut. If you can spare a little time - a couple of hours one evening a month for a meeting, or a few hours to help at events - please make yourselves known to one of the leaders.

More information can be found about 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Group on our website.

<http://www.1stgossomscouts.org.uk>

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## What is Scouting?

Sir Robert Baden-Powell started scouting over 80 years ago. He was a soldier, and got the idea while he was serving in the African town of Mafeking. He brought this idea home to England after the war, and tried it out with several groups of young boys from all over the country, and from different walks of life. This ended up with him organising a camp on the now famous Brownsea Island.

The old fashioned approach of 'DYB DYB DYB' and wide brimmed hats went out of the window at the review of Scouting in 1967, so we won't make your child wear silly hats unless they want to!

Scouting still remains one of the biggest movements in the world. It differs from other youth organisations in that it requires all Scouts to make a promise "The Scout Promise" and to follow a few simple rules "The Scout Law".

Scouts are the next step on from Cubs in their personal learning curve. Here, they will learn even more skills than before, as well as expanding on the ones that they already have.

The activities that your child participates in will test them to the limits both mentally and physically. As your child gets older, these will get easier and your child will want to learn new skills, and try even more testing activities. The leaders will try to encourage your child to do this as much as possible, but in the end, it is down to them to show us what they can do.

There are adult leaders on hand to help your child as much as they want us to and when they need it.

***"It is a movement, because it moves forward. As soon as it stops moving, it becomes an Organisation, and is no longer Scouting. -- Sir Robert Baden-Powell.***

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## What do we do?

### The Training Programme

The eight stages of the Progressive Training Scheme in the Scout Section are:-

- Participation Awards
- The Challenge Badges
- The Activity Badges
- The Group Awards
- The Expedition Challenge
- The Outdoor Challenge
- The Outdoor Plus Challenge
- The Adventure Challenge

### How do I find out about these activities/events?

The mailing service tends to be via your child. We write our own newsletter, which we prefer to email to parents and scouts as it is more likely to be delivered and helps keep the costs down. (Please tell us your preference on delivery method). This contains general information about the Scout Group and its activities and future events and dates. However, if at any time you are not sure about the arrangements for a Troop activity, do have a chat with the Leaders after a Troop meeting or contact them at home by phone or email.

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## Do You Want to Help?

Your child may come home from a Troop meeting and say, "I need to know how to build an open fire for camp!"

Your child expects you to be interested and will get much more out of Scouting if you are prepared to offer your support. There are lots of ways in which you can help, for example:-

- Helping prepare refreshments for a Group event
  - Helping transport Scouts to events and outings or move kit to camp
  - Supporting the Scout Group's social events, Annual General Meeting, and Open Evenings
  - Joining the Scout Group Executive Committee to help them raise funds and manage the Scout Group.
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### The Group Executive Committee

Each year, the Scout Group elects an Executive Committee consisting of a number of parents and various Leaders in the Group to carry out the day-to-day tasks of running the Scout Group. They are responsible for purchasing equipment and maintaining Group property. The function of the Group Executive Committee is also to support and help the Group Scout Leader carry out his or her role in maintaining an effective and successful Scout Group.

### What do you gain from helping?

You will have the opportunity to meet a variety of new people and make a real contribution to help your local community. Please do not be shy to offer your help and if you feel you have any skills to offer to the Scout Troop please contact your Scout Leader. By playing your part and supporting your child you will share the enjoyment, friendship and fun of the Family of Scouting.

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## The Scout Promise and Law

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

### The Scout Motto

Be Prepared

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## Health/Contact Information

Below, you will find a form; a similar form is also issued before each and every camp. It is important that you complete this form fully and honestly - no matter how small or trivial the problem. It is important that we are able to contact the parents should the need arise. Please could you fill out the form and return it to one of the leaders as soon as possible.

<b>Scout's Personal Details</b>	
First Name(s)	
Surname	
Date of Birth	
Home Address	
Telephone Number	
Parent 1 Name and Mobile Number	
Parent 2 Name and Mobile Number	
Parent 1 Work Number	
Parent 2 Work Number	
Email address for Parent(s)	
Email address for Scout	

Alternative Contact Details - In case we are unable to contact you, please give us details of another person who may be contacted.

<b>Alternative Contact Details</b>	
Name	
Relationship to Scout	
Address	
Home Phone Number	
Work Phone Number	
Mobile Phone Number	

**Medical Information** - Please include as much detail in this section as possible including **any** medication they are on, or should not be given, any past illness which a hospital would need to know about before treatment, and **all** allergies. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

NHS Number	
Date of Last Tetanus Injection	
Are they up to Date With All Childhood Immunisations?	YES/NO (Please Circle)
If NO, Please Give Details	
Illness/Medical Conditions e.g. Asthma, Hay Fever, Travel Sickness etc.	
<b>Any Allergies</b>	
Medication	
Special Dietary Needs	
<b>Doctors Details</b>	
Doctors Name	
Practice Name	
Address	
Telephone Number	

**Parent/Guardian's Permission**

In the event that my son requires medical treatment, I give my permission for the qualified medical staff to act in their best interest, and for any Leader to sign such documents as when may be necessary on my behalf.

**I will** also notify a leader **immediately** if any of the information on this form should change.

Signature	
Print Name	
Relationship to Scout	
Date	

Please return these forms to a Leader as soon as possible.

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