

2nd Wallingford Scout Group Waiting list Policy

AIM

We aim to maximise the numbers of young people that can participate in Scouting through the 2nd Wallingford Scout Group by our management (1) of the waiting list and (2) of movement between Sections within the Group. The waiting list will be managed flexibly to achieve this aim. A great deal of care goes into the administration of membership places and we aim to be transparent about our reasons for allocation of places, subject to the restrictions of confidentiality.

The number of young people in each section is limited by the number of leaders and by the space available in the Scout Hut. We aim to ensure that there is a broad spread of ages within each section as this allows each young person to have steady progress through the sections and to develop through the Leadership roles available within each Section e.g. sixer and seconder in Cubs. This is not possible where there are a considerable number of young people of the same age in one section. This supports the aim of Scouting, 'to promote the development of young people in achieving their full potential'.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN BEAVERS, CUBS OR SCOUTS

Applications for a Young Person to become a member of the Group must be made by the Young Person's parent or guardian and contain the information set out below.

They must be made in writing and sent by email to membership@2ndWallingfordscouts.org.uk or given to the Group Scout Leader.

Parents / carers must provide their Young Person's name, date of birth, address and gender.

It is the responsibility of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) to make decisions about membership of the Group. Generally the GSL delegates responsibility for decisions about allocation of membership from the waiting list to the Membership Secretary (MS). The MS will consult with Section Leaders about the space they have in their Sections and about when to admit new members and when and how to admit members that move between Sections. In certain cases the MS may consult with the GSL about admissions. The GSL may make a decision about admissions in certain cases.

Potential beavers will only be admitted to the list from the start of the winter, spring or summer term before their 5th birthday. Children's details are listed chronologically on the waiting list and places will generally be allocated according to this order once they meet the minimum age 5.75 yrs for beavers, 7.5 yrs for cubs, 10 yrs for scouts.

However, priority for places is intended to be given to;

1 Leaders' children, as we may be able to take more members where we have more leaders.

2 Those that help balance the section or are underrepresented e.g girls or a particular age group,

- 3 Young People who are currently part of the Group,
- 4 Those that may be identified as likely to receive exceptional benefits from scouting as they are disadvantaged in other ways,
- 5 Siblings,
- 6 Children in the Fir Tree Junior and St Johns Primary schools catchment area

The waiting list will be managed proactively to anticipate when there will be challenges for particular sections. There may be the need to protect spaces to ensure children can progress within the group.

The allocation of spaces will ensure that there is a balanced age range in each section and this may mean that numbers of each age group are restricted.

Children will usually be admitted at the beginning of each term ie. In September, January or April / May and the age ranges admitted will be considered using the same periods of time.

MOVING ON

The age of the child will be broadly 7.5yrs for going to cubs, after 10th birthday for scouts and 14th for explorer scouts. NB admission to Explorers is administered through the Thames Chiltern Scout District. The point at which a member moves on will vary due to the capacity within each section and waiting list demands.

The MS will advise leaders after the half term holiday of the members due to progress to the next section at the start of the following term, and the likely Section the individual will be allocated to. The leaders will advise the members due to move on and confirm the desire to move on with the members' family and tell the MS within 2 weeks.

The leaders will pass contact details to the next section. It is expected that normally the members will move to the allocated section and only exceptional circumstances will changes to the allocation be made. It may not be possible to comply with a request for a place in a particular section and should the member not want to move to the allocated slot, we expect them to leave if their space is needed.