

On behalf of the Leaders and Trustees of 2nd Wallingford Scout Group:

Welcome to the 2nd Wallingford Scout Group

We are a group of around 100 young people and 20+ leaders, plus around 10 trustees / administrators and we're delighted that your young person has chosen to join us. The Group was established in December 1947 so we celebrated our 70th Birthday in 2017.

We hope that this information sheet has the things you need to understand how we work and where we can answer your questions, please get in touch, info@2ndwallingfordscouts.org.uk

There is a lot of information available from the [Scout Association](#) online.

BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

	Approx. age range	Meeting day/time	Section Leader
Beaver Scout Colony	6 - 8yrs	Tue 4.15 - 5.15	Nicki Laitt
Rama Cub Scout Pack	8 - 10.5 yrs	Tue 5.45 - 7.30	Steve Hill
Seeonee Cub Scout Pack	8 - 10.5 yrs	Wed 6 - 7.45	Helen Savery
Sylvatica Scout Troop	10.5 yrs - 14 yrs	Mon 7 - 9pm	Max Oscroft
Inferno Scout Troop	10.5 yrs - 14 yrs	Thurs 7 - 9pm	Phil Ashcroft

From 13yrs, Scouts may move to an Explorer Unit; a scout can be no older than 14.5yrs old. Explorers are not run by our Group, they are organised and run by our local Scouting District, Thames Chiltern. We are lucky that the Incendium Explorers Unit meets at our hut regularly. To enquire about Explorers, please contact the [District Explorer Commissioner](#)

We have separate Waiting List and Moving On Policies which are on our website at www.2ndwallingfordscouts.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS AND STAYING IN TOUCH

While your child is with their leaders you will know how you can contact the leaders. Leaders will provide you with an email address and telephone number to enable this to happen. When your child is on camp or away at another activity we may arrange for another leader or volunteer to be our 'In Touch' contact person who will be the contact person in the event of any emergency situation. This then enables the leader in charge of the activity to focus on the events with the young people and the independent contact person will be in contact with parents and in touch with events at the activity site.

It is vital that you provide us with accurate contact details and that you keep this information up to date at all times whilst your child is a member of the Group.

We will provide you with a Young Person Information Form for this purpose and you may complete a temporary form in your early weeks with us. In due course you will receive an invitation to log into our online data system, Online Scout Manager.

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JOINING THE ASSOCIATION AS A MEMBER AND UNIFORM

Being invested

We allow new joiners a few weeks at the start of their time with us, to get to know us and be happy that they want to stay with us. The ceremony when people join the worldwide family of Scouting is called 'Investiture' and Leaders will let you know when this will be so that you can attend if you are able to. This will often take place at the end of a regular meeting.

As part of the ceremony the new joiner will need to be familiar with the Promise and the Law relevant to their Section. There is more information here:

[Beavers](#)

[Cubs](#)

[Scouts](#)

[Explorers](#)

Uniform

Once a young person is happy that they want to join scouting, we ask you to buy their uniform and have listed below the things that they will need.

The Group will provide them with a necker and woggle at their investiture ceremony. Beavers and Cubs have a woggle that shows which 'team' they are in. Scouts are free to wear a woggle of their own choosing; there are many different types available.

Information about the uniform that is needed for each section is set out below. Uniform is available from the [Scout Shop online](#) or from our local [Scout Shop](#) which is an outlet of the online shop. Our local Shop operates once every few weeks from the Scout Hut on a Thursday from 4 - 6pm. Profits from purchases made through the Official Scout Shop go back to the Association.

There is a local independent online supplier of Scout Shop stock based in Didcot called [Kit 4 Scouts](#).

Beavers Uniform

- Official [Beaver turquoise crew neck sweatshirt](#)
- Navy, grey or black plain, smart trousers or Navy smart skirt
- School shoes

Cubs Uniform

- Official [Cub green 'tipped' crew neck sweatshirt](#)
- Navy, grey or black plain smart trousers or Navy smart skirt
- School shoes

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Scouts Uniform

- Official [Scout teal green uniform shirt](#)
- Navy, grey or black plain, smart trousers or Navy smart skirt
- Plain or [Scout belt](#)
- School shoes

We recommend that for everyday meetings, and particularly for the summer, Beavers and Cubs may find a uniform polo shirt useful instead of their sweatshirts.

Full Uniform is to be worn for Parades, Award Ceremonies, etc.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS

The Scout Group is entirely self-funding, by which we mean that we need to raise all the funds that we use to provide the activities for our young people. Subs are at present £30 per term (3 terms in a year) for all sections. We use the subs to pay for all of the weekly section meetings. We do ask for further payment for camps and other activities. Where you are unable to pay for any reason, please get in touch with your Section Leader or speak to me, and such conversations will be kept in confidence.

When a young person first joins the Group we make a charge of £5 which covers the cost of their special Group necker and woggle and the initial badges for their uniform. This cost will either be taken as part of their initial subs payment or may be a separate charge. Both of these payments will be requested initially via email using our online system.

We welcome payments made on line via Online Scout Manager (OSM) for both subs and activities / camps. The person named as Primary Contact in the Information Form will receive an email requesting payment of subs when they are due. They will also receive up to 3 reminder emails. Payment by cash and cheque is still possible; please put these in a named envelope and hand them to one of your section's leaders.

SAFEGUARDING

More Information about this is available on the Scout Association Website

Young people thrive in safe surroundings. We are committed to ensuring that Scouting is both enjoyable and safe for everyone who takes part, along with providing parents with peace of mind.

Appointing those who work with young people

All volunteers who help to run our activities give their time freely to help young people enjoy Scouting.

Leaders are interviewed locally and asked to provide references. Everyone working with young people in Scouting is asked to undertake a Criminal Record Check, sometimes known as a 'police check'.

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Code of behaviour

We have a clear code of behaviour which is given to all adults working in Scouting, regardless of their role. This is also included in the training that leaders receive and offers advice about how young people should be treated. We expect everyone to follow it.

If you volunteer to help out with an activity, you'll be given one too, and if you would like to see a copy of the code of behaviour for adults, just ask any of your child's leaders or visit the [Safeguarding](#) area of the Scout Association website.

Training

We expect all leaders to take courses in basic first aid and child protection. Special training is provided for those taking young people away on residential events like camps and sleepovers.

Outings and camps

All leaders taking young people on outings or camps will give you notice in writing, ask for your permission and provide you with a method of contacting the group while they are away.

We will never ask to take individual young people away on their own or without another adult being present.

What to do if you have concerns

If you are unhappy with anything relating to your child's time in Scouting, please talk to your child's leaders or to our Group Scout Leader, Helen Liddar (helen@2ndwallingfordscouts.org.uk). If you would rather speak to someone else, please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0345 300 1818.

The Scout Association also has a [complaints procedure](#). For more information view our [Safe and Sound](#) leaflet for parents and the 'Young People First' leaflet also known as the '[Yellow Card](#)'.

MOVING ON

When the time comes for your daughter or son to move onto the next Section your Section Leader will contact you. Once they have started with the next section, they will be given a couple of weeks to ensure that they want to proceed, and then leaders will contact you to let you know when their investiture will take place. We will then ask you to purchase the new uniform they will need.

PARENT ROTAS

From time to time our sections operate a Parent Rota. This enables you to provide valued support to our volunteer leaders. We will contact you where we need your support in this way. You may be asked up to twice a year to attend a meeting. If you would like to contribute a little more time, we have a need for further leaders, trustees and administrators to support the group so please just ask for more information about getting involved.

All roles can be very flexible in terms of the time and commitment you are able to offer.

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PARADES

We attend the St Georges Parade as part of our District's Parade (usually in late April), the Wallingford Mayor Making Parade (May) and Remembrance Parade (November) each year and ask that you attend with your Young Person.

Cubs also support the Andrew & Wilding Commemorative Service in early September each year.

FUNDRAISING

The Scouts help to set up and take down stalls for the Wallingford Producers Market most Saturdays in the Regal Centre or in the Market Square in Wallingford at 8.30am and 1pm. The Scout Troops are paid to do this work and so your Scout's contribution to this is greatly appreciated. We regularly fundraise for the Group and we value your help with this, e.g. Supermarket Bag Packing at Christmas, Wallingford Christmas Scout Post, providing refreshments at summer band concerts in the Castle Gardens, Wallingford.

More information will be available about each of these activities in due course. We do rely upon your help to support these activities. Leaders commit so many hours each week to the planning, preparation and execution of activities that it is not always possible for them to attend these events. This is where your support is key to the survival of the Group. We also hope that you see these fundraising activities as a way to take part in the life of our wider community in Wallingford and Oxfordshire.

FUN AFTERNOON AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Each year in May/June we spend a Sunday afternoon together as a group of Parents, Leaders and Young People with some games and a BBQ. The Group is a Charity and so each year we must hold a formal Annual General Meeting, however we have a reputation for completing this within an impressive 16 minutes. You also have the opportunity to hear about what the different sections have been up to during the year.

STRUCTURE OF THE SCOUT GROUP AND THAMES CHILTERN DISTRICT

Each of our 5 sections is led by one particular Leader. From time to time, different qualified Leaders will run activities and may be the Leader in Charge for a whole meeting. We have many qualified leaders and some who are in the process of training.

The Leaders have the support of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL) who in turn are supported by the Group Scout Executive Committee who are the charitable trustees of the Scout Group.

Our Scout Group is one of 17 in the [Thames Chiltern District](#) which is led by the District Commissioner (DC). The DC is supported by Assistant District Commissioners and by the District Executive Committee.

Our District is part of the [Oxfordshire County of Scouting](#). From time to time our Sections are given the opportunity to join in with other Beavers / Cubs / Scouts from the District or County in Camps or other activities.

Welcome to our Group and we look forward to getting to know you. Thank you for your support.