

Welcome Pack

We are pleased to offer your child a place at 1st Chandlers Fords Scout Group. We hope they will enjoy being part of our Scouting family.

We know that starting any new venture can be daunting at first, so we have created this information pack to help cover some of the most common questions we are asked.

What do Scouts do?

Scouts is an International Youth Movement that provides a safe space for young people to make new friends, have amazing adventures and learn new skills. Not only do we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing, but we also have fun, play games, work in a team and explore new challenges.

Scouting provides additional skills to help our young people thrive in their future lives; aiding communication, providing experience of how to tackle tricky challenges and allowing space to explore their big dreams.

Everyone's welcome; all genders, races, religions, backgrounds and physical abilities.

The Sections

We have three Sections in our Group:

BEAVERS 

cubs 

SCOUTS 

Young people can join Scouting at any stage, and once invested will automatically progress through the sections if they wish.



Age Group: 6-8 years

Packs: We have 2 Beaver colonies that meet on Wednesdays 18:15-19:30 and Fridays 17:45-19:00

Uniform: The Beavers have a uniform which consists of a turquoise sweatshirt and dark coloured trousers/ shorts. Beavers also wear a Group scarf once they are invested.

What do Beavers do?:

Beavers is all about making friends, trying new things and enjoying new experiences together. You can find out more about being a Beaver on the Scout Association Web site at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/beavers/being-a-beaver/>

Our Beaver evenings are each full of fun and games while learning new skills and exploring the world around us. Being a Beaver also allows young people to work for badges, some of which we explore during our sessions and some you can choose to do at home. Beavers work towards the Bronze Chief Scout Award.

You can take a look at some of the badges here <https://www.scouts.org.uk/beavers/activity-badges/>



Age Group: 8-10½ years

Packs: We have 2 Cub packs that meet on Tuesdays 18:30-20:00 and Thursdays 18:30-20:00

Uniform: The Cubs have a uniform which consists of a dark green sweatshirt and dark coloured trousers/ shorts. Cubs also wear the Group scarf. A Beaver who has gained their Bronze Chief Scout Award may wear that award on their Cub uniform until they gain the Silver Chief Scout Award.

What do Cub Scouts do?

The Cub pack is all about having fun, lots of adventures and making friends. A Cub Scout Pack is split into smaller groups called Sixes. There are opportunities to go on visits, explore the outdoors, play games and to go on camps. Cubs work towards the Silver Chief Scout Award. You can find out more about being a Cub on the Scout Association Web site <https://www.scouts.org.uk/cubs>



Age Group: 10½ - 14 years

Packs: We have 2 Scout troops that meet on Mondays 19:00-21:00 and Fridays 19:30-21:30

Uniform: Scouts wear a teal green smart shirt, a pair of navy blue activity trousers and their Group scarf. A Cub joining the Scout Section, who has gained their Silver Chief Scout Award, may wear that award on their Scout uniform until they gain the Gold Chief Scout Award.

What do Scouts do?

In addition to the usual Scout activities such as camping, hiking, rock climbing, pioneering, canoeing and abseiling, the Scout Section focuses on personal development and understanding of the values inherent in Scouting, team working and communication. Scouts work towards the Gold Chief Scout Award. You can find out more about being a Scout on the Scout Association Web site <https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts>

Investiture

We ask that each child wears uniform from the week they are invested in the Group. This is normally 4-6 weeks after they start to allow you time to feel confident that they would like to stay with us.

What does 'being invested' mean?

When a young person is invested, they are formally welcomed into the Scouting family. They need to make their Scouting Promise and will be given their Group scarf (also known as a neckerchief or necker) along with badges to go on their uniforms showing they are a member of the Group, as well as a member of the wider Scout District and County.



Our Group scarf



Group name, District (Chandlers Ford) and County (Hampshire) badges

Transitioning between Sections

Once a young person is invested in the Group they are automatically able to move from Beavers, to Cubs and then to Scouts with us. We will try to place each young person in the Section meeting of your choice, but please be aware this is not always possible and depends on space availability.

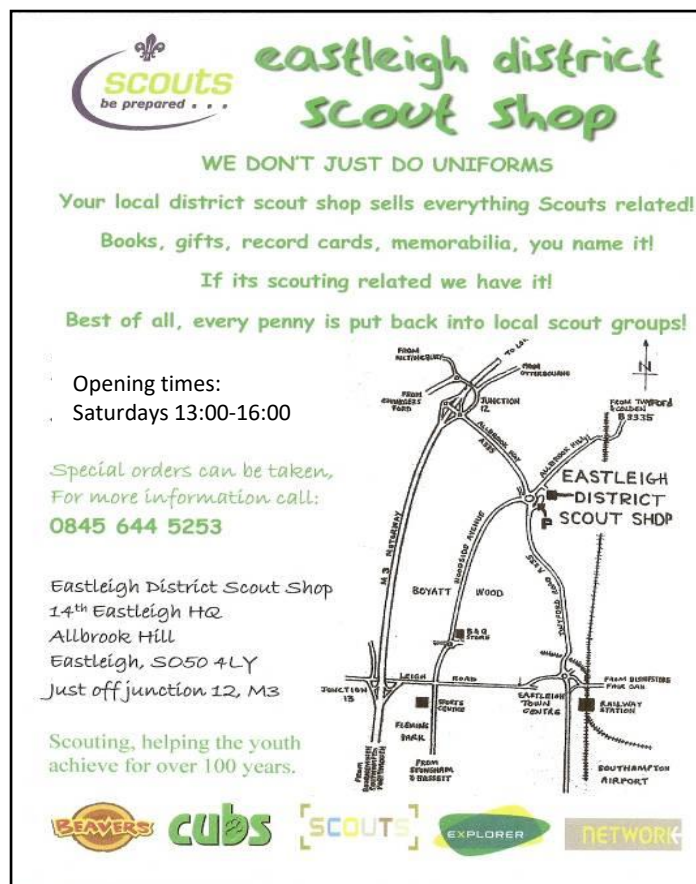
We co-ordinate the transition of young people between Sections with each school term, allowing young people to leave a Section at the end of a half-term, and start their next Section at the beginning of the following school half term.

Once a member of Scouts, if you move away from Chandlers Ford your young person can be transferred to a Group in the location to which you have moved.

Purchasing Uniform

The Sections leader will give you notice of when your young person's investiture will take place. Standard Scout uniform items are available from the Eastleigh District Scout Shop (see poster below), Skoolkit (<https://www.skoolkit.co.uk/products/scouts-and-guiding>) or from the Scouts.org.uk shop at <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/all-uniforms/>.

Beavers require a Beaver jumper only, Cubs a Cubs jumper only and Scouts a Scouts shirt. You should not buy the Group scarf or any badges as these will be supplied at the investiture.



The poster for the Eastleigh District Scout Shop features the Scouts logo at the top left. The main title 'eastleigh district scout shop' is in a large, green, stylized font. Below it, the slogan 'WE DON'T JUST DO UNIFORMS' is written in green. The text continues: 'Your local district scout shop sells everything Scouts related!', 'Books, gifts, record cards, memorabilia, you name it!', 'If its scouting related we have it!', and 'Best of all, every penny is put back into local scout groups!'. It lists opening times as 'Saturdays 13:00-16:00' and provides a phone number '0845 644 5253'. The address is 'Eastleigh District Scout Shop, 14th Eastleigh Hq, Allbrook Hill, Eastleigh, SO50 4LY, just off junction 12, M3'. A map shows the location relative to local roads and landmarks like 'BOYATT WOOD' and 'EASTLEIGH DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP'. At the bottom, logos for 'BEAVERS', 'cubs', 'SCOUTS', 'EXPLORER', and 'NETWORK' are displayed.

scouts be prepared . . .

eastleigh district scout shop

WE DON'T JUST DO UNIFORMS

Your local district scout shop sells everything Scouts related!

Books, gifts, record cards, memorabilia, you name it!

If its scouting related we have it!

Best of all, every penny is put back into local scout groups!

Opening times:
Saturdays 13:00-16:00

Special orders can be taken,
For more information call:
0845 644 5253

Eastleigh District Scout Shop
14th Eastleigh Hq
Allbrook Hill
Eastleigh, SO50 4LY
just off junction 12, M3

Scouting, helping the youth
achieve for over 100 years.

BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS EXPLORER NETWORK

In addition to the official Scouts clothing, we also have a Group t-shirt that all Group members are welcome to wear under their uniform if they wish. The t-shirts can be worn instead of the formal branded Scouts polo's under Beavers and Cubs jumpers, and can be worn under Scouts shirts. Group clothing is not compulsory. T-shirts can be purchased directly from the Group.



Online Scout Manager

Our Group uses an online facility called Online Scout Manager, or OSM as our main method of communication (www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk). When your young person joins the Group we will ask you to add their personal details, essential information (including medical conditions, allergies and school) and to complete the consent section.

We are a cash-free Unit, so all camps, subscriptions, trips, badges and other payments are requested and paid through OSM. Please ensure you have signed up for Gift Aid if you are eligible.

OSM provides you with a record of how your child is progressing with their badge work, and will also give you an idea of the programme that will be running each term.

Please ensure you log on to OSM at least once every term to ensure your young person's details are up to date.

Facebook

We have a closed Facebook page that you are welcome to join
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/225056044689795>

Subscriptions

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Our subscriptions are currently £40 per academic term, and you will be required to pay the subscriptions pro rata based on school term dates (i.e. if you start at half-term you are only required to pay £20 for that term).

Gift Aid: If you pay tax in the UK, by "Gift Aiding" your subscriptions we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you pay in subscriptions or donations. It costs you nothing and means that we can keep our subscriptions low! **Please complete the Gift Aid section on OSM if you are able.**

If you find yourself in a position where you are either temporarily or permanently unable to pay subscriptions, please contact our Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity by emailing

chair@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk. to discuss this to see if we can help in any way. If you do not pay subscriptions/ other costs due by the end of each term and have not made contact with our Executive Committee we may have to temporarily suspend your young persons membership of the Group until these debts have been cleared.

Welfare of your child

The welfare of your child is paramount and we take great care to ensure all our Leaders and regular adult helpers are DBS checked and have completed Safeguarding training.

On occasion there is a need to call on some parents to help with a particular activity, such as assisting on a Beaver walk, or outing to the swimming baths, Cubs having a cooking evening or taking Scouts to camps.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or the interactions of any of the adults volunteering with our Group please contact us on safeguarding@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk

Leaders, Volunteers and Parent Helpers

All Scout Groups are run entirely by volunteers who kindly donate their time, expertise, enthusiasm and energy to run each Section. Scouting could not run without this support.

We are very aware that in order to ensure we are able to continue providing our young people with an excellent Scouting programme **we need your help...**

- Have you ever considered becoming a Beaver, Cub or Scout Leader?
- Would you consider being an Occasional Helper at meetings?
- Could you support leaders during outside activities or camps?
- Are you able to attend Section meetings on a supporting parent rota?
- Are you able to contribute in a supporting role to keep the group running, for example helping with maintenance or fundraising?
- Do you have a skill to share with the Group?
- Would you consider a role on our Executive Committee?

In order to keep the Group functioning, and we need each family to help in some way. We are very aware that life is busy, and that work and family commitments may prevent you from regularly helping at meetings. However, the saying 'many hands make light work' is very true, and if we all pull together excellence can be achieved, and we can ensure our young people get the best possible programme and opportunities from Scouting.

We have a parent helper rota to allow us to run each meeting with an appropriate number of adult supporters. If each family signs up to help during 1 meeting each term we can continue to run all meetings with safe supervision ratios.

Please either complete the attached form, speak to you leader or email the GSL at GSL@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk to let us know how you can contribute.

Parent/Adult Support

Please use this form to indicate how you are able to support the Group. This form can either be handed in to one of our Leaders or scanned and emailed to GSL@1stchangersfordscouts.co.uk

If you have any additional ideas of how you may be able to help the Group that are not listed below please also let us know.

Names

Preferred contact number(s)

Email address(es)

Area of Help	Parent 1	Parent 2
I am interested in becoming a Leader. (The time commitment for this is from two hours a week to as much time as you would like to spend on it.)		
I am willing to be an Occasional Helper. (Occasional Helpers work with one of the Sections at least once a month at their evening meetings)		
I am willing to be a member of the Executive Committee (four to five meetings per year, plus a role that you can do at home taking a maximum of one hour per week)		
I am willing to help with outside maintenance of the Headquarters (this includes grass cutting, keeping the front clear of weeds and tidy, and cutting the hedge at the back of the HQ – more time is required in the summer than winter, but averages two hours twice per term at a weekend).		
I have electrical/plumber/carpentry/building skills and am willing to help maintain the fabric of the building.		
I am willing to be a parent on the cleaning rota and will agree to help clean the headquarters once per term.		
I am willing to help with maintaining the Group web site.		
I am not able to help at this time		

Any details submitted on this form will be held and used in accordance with GDPR principles.