

1st Chandlers Ford Scouts Subscriptions Policy and the use of Online Scout Manager

Online Scout Manager

Our Group uses an online facility called Online Scout Manager, or OSM as our 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 try hard to be 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.

Subscriptions

Our subscriptions are currently £45 per academic term. If your young person starts or finishes with our Group at half-term you will be required to pay £25 for the half term sessions. Subscriptions are not refundable, so please ensure you inform us if your young person is leaving at a half term mark before you pay.

Gift Aid: If you pay tax in the UK, by "Gift Aiding" your subscriptions we can claim Gift Aid support from the Government, amounting to 25p pence for every £1 you pay. 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.**

How are your subscriptions spent?

Approximately 55% of the subscriptions you pay goes to the Scouts Association, our County and District as a 'capitation' payment. We pay this compulsory fee each year in April. It is essentially a membership fee to allow your young person to be part of Scouting and allows our Governing bodies to continue their excellent supportive work across the country.

Approximately 20% of the subscriptions goes to buying badges (which on average cost about £1/ badge) and other Scouting items (like neckers and woggles).

A further 15% goes to buying the equipment we use to run our programme. This includes all craft materials, as well as bigger items like archery sets, tents and fire pits.

30% goes on paying the utility bills for the hut, and a further 15% is spent on insurance.

The keen eyed among you will have noticed we are already up to 135%! This is because we rely on the Gift Aid many of you kindly sign up for in order to make ends meet.

You may also have noticed there is no hut maintenance in the above breakdown. Each year we try to hire out our hall and/ or carpark to local businesses in order to raise extra funds to cover the maintenance of our hut and grounds and any other unexpected costs we may meet along the way. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic has really affected this essential funding stream this year.

Do I have to pay if my child does not attend?

We are a charity and have fixed costs to pay in order for your child to belong to the wider Scouting movement. We are therefore unable to modify subscriptions to reflect any sessions your child does not attend. However, if there is likely to be a prolonged period where your child is unable to attend, for example due to illness or family circumstances, please contact our Executive Committee by emailing chair@1stchandlerfordscouts.co.uk so we are aware and can support you to the best of our ability.

We appreciate online sessions are not for all, but with the uncertainty of Covid there is a chance these may return in the future if necessary. Whilst we are providing Scouting for your child we ask you continue to pay subscriptions in order to keep your child's place whether they attend or not as ultimately our costs do not change irrespective of how we are able to deliver sessions.

What should I do if I can't pay my subscriptions?

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@1stchandlerfordscouts.co.uk. 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 person's membership of the Group until these debts have been resolved.