



# Welcome Pack – Part 2!

## Investiture

We ask that each child wears uniform from the week they are invested in the Group. This is normally 4 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



Our Group  
badge

## Transitioning between Sections

Once a young person is invested in the Group they are automatically able to move from Squirrels to Beavers, Beavers to Cubs, and then from Cubs to Scouts in our Group. 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 Chandler's Ford your young person can be transferred to a Group in the location to which you have moved.

Once your young person is nearing their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday our District Explorers Lead will contact you to see if they would like to continue their Scouting journey. Explorers are run through District and not by our Group.

## 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 Arrow District Scout Shop (see poster below – often the cheapest place to purchase uniform and you can try clothing on for size), 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/>.

Squirrels require a Squirrels jumper only (or plain red sweatshirt if jumpers are difficult to find), Beavers require a Beaver jumper only, Cubs a Cubs jumper only and Scouts a Scout shirt and a woggle. You should not buy the Group scarf or any badges as these will be supplied at the investiture.



**The Arrow District Scout Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays during term time.**

The shop stocks Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Leader Scout uniforms, as well as lots of other Scout related items. If an [item](#) you would like is not in stock the shop will order it in for you within a few days.

Every purchase you make at the Arrow Scout Shop generates future discount for your group. The more you buy from us, the more your own group benefits each year.

### Opening Times

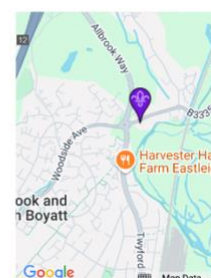
Saturdays: 10.00am to 4.00pm

Thursdays: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Closed during school holidays (except half term)

### Address

14th Eastleigh HQ  
Allbrook Hill  
Eastleigh  
SO50 4LY



## Group Clothing

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 Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs jumpers, and can be worn under Scouts shirts. Group hoodies and zoodies are also available to purchase. Group clothing is not compulsory but really helps our young people to feel part of the wider Group. All Group clothing 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](http://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. We also use OSM to let you know if we need additional parental help to run an evening.

**Please ensure you log on to OSM at least once every half-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>. The closed page is used to let you know about what your young people have been up to during their meetings and to inform you of any news.

We also have an open page that we would love you to 'like'. <https://www.facebook.com/1stCFScoutGroup> This page is used to advertise fundraising events or any public interest news.

## Subscriptions

Our subscriptions are currently £45 per full academic term. If your young person will be starting or finishing with us at a half term point you will be required to pay £25 for this part of the 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](mailto: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, Section Assistants and regular adult helpers are DBS checked and have completed Safeguarding training.

Occasional parent helpers do not need to be DBS checked, but if you help several times each term we may ask you if you would be happy to become part of our DBS checked volunteer cohort (as per Scout Association rules).

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](mailto:safeguarding@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk)**

## Volunteering Policy

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. In order to ensure our Scout Group can continue we need **EVERY family** to agree **to help** with the running of our Group in some way.

We are very aware that you will all have unique skills that can be used to help run our Group...

- Have you ever considered becoming a Squirrels, Beaver, Cub or Scout Leader or Section Assistant (in either the Section your child attends or in a different Section)?
- Would you consider being an Occasional Helper at meetings as part of a helper rota?
- Could you support Leaders during outside activities or camps?
- Are you able to contribute in a supporting role to keep the Group running, for example helping with hut maintenance or with fundraising?
- Are you fantastic at IT, social media or comms?
- Do you have a unique skill to share with the Group (e.g. First Aid)?
- 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.

Adult to child ratios differ depending on the age of the young people in each Section. For many of our younger Sections we expect each family to sign up to help during at least 1 meeting each term to allow us to run all meetings with safe supervision ratios. If we cannot meet the required safe ratios meetings will be cancelled.

Please speak to a member of your Section Leadership team or email our Group Lead Volunteer at [GSL@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk](mailto:GSL@1sthandlersfordscouts.co.uk) to let us know how you can contribute.