



11<sup>th</sup> Sefton East/Altside Scout Group—General Information Pack

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Scout Headquarters, St. James Church Hall,

Green Lane, Maghull.

# Information Pack

## For Scouts and Parents

Help on joining and working with our Group

### Group Scout Leader

Dave Winrow Tel: 0151 526 2625

### Section Leaders

Sharon Woods-Beaver Scouts

Matthew Stemp-Cub Scouts

Brian Holdsworth-Scouts

Mike Winrow-Explorer Scouts





## Introduction

The purpose of this pack is to welcome you to our Scout Group, and provide you with the answer to many of the questions you may have regarding Scouting.

It will not answer them all, so do please ask any of the leaders or members of your section if you are not sure about anything, and they will be able to help you.

The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The method of achieving the aim of the Scout Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by Adult leadership.

Here in the 11<sup>th</sup> Group we have successfully achieved the aim of the Scout Association for over 35 years, and we are well placed to continue for many more. We enjoy the benefits of the church hall, using our own extensive range of equipment, and have a very experienced and enthusiastic team of leaders and helpers, all of whom are of course volunteers.

All warranted leaders and helpers are checked through the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) process and are keen to ensure that all young people of the Group gain the maximum benefit from membership, within the boundaries of the Scout Association Child Protection Policy.

## What do Scouts do?

Every uniformed member of the Group is classed as a “Scout” and through their particular section they will undertake a variety of challenging, adventurous and fun activities, applicable to their age, and their section membership.

These activities can be anything from a weekend “Survival Camp” when members of the Troop or Unit will build their own shelters and cook basic foodstuffs on fires, to visiting the local Church etc. for the younger members to learn about the building, or even to the local swimming baths.

A key part of every section programme is their weekly meeting, which normally are held in the church hall, but sometimes can be held elsewhere.

Each section of the Group aims to do as wide range of activities as possible in order that everyone will enjoy lots of different things that they find challenging and fun.

As a young person gets older they will progress through to the next section at an agreed time to ensure the change is as smooth as possible, and this will also normally mean they will “Move up” with some friends.



Each subsequent section has age guidelines, but the leaders will always work around these to the best of their ability to ensure the path through the Group is successful.

The programme for each section is different, but based on the same principles of developing young people, and as such each section does have its own distinct badge structure.

However there are several common awards throughout the sections, as well as the ascending levels of the Chief Scout Awards, starting at Bronze, leading to Platinum and ultimately followed by the highest award for a young person, the Queens Scout Award.

The Group has strong links with St. James church, and as such we attend the Family Parade Service held usually on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise informed.

All Scouts are expected to attend these services as often as possible, which like most things we do, will go towards elements of the various badges.

## When do we meet?

By now you should be aware of the night your section meets, but here is a reminder:-

Beaver Scouts- Thursday 6pm- 7pm

Cub Scouts- Wednesday 6.15pm- 7.30pm

Scouts- Wednesday 7.30pm- 9pm

Explorer Scouts- Thursday 7.30pm- 9pm

The meetings take place at St. James Church Hall, Green Lane, Maghull.

Meetings can often be arranged at other places, particularly for Scouts and Explorers and at different times, these are always announced a week or so before hand.

Beaver and Cub Scouts should arrive no more than 10 minutes before the meeting starts, promptly at the appointed time and should be escorted to the HQ and from the car park, especially on the darker winter evenings.

For all sections meetings parents are welcome to come into the hall and watch the particular closing ceremony.



## What is the Uniform like?

Uniform obviously changes as a young person progresses through the sections, but in all cases is an expected part of the membership of the Group.

Uniform should be worn for all meeting nights, going to and from camps, with only one or two exceptions, which will be advised accordingly.

The Group neckerchiefs are available from section leaders, but the appropriate shirt or jersey must be purchased by the parents prior to a young person's investiture.

There are various outlets for Scout Uniforms, and a note in the hall foyer gives these details.

Such badges awarded are provided as required through the sections, and the Group's membership badges are presented as part of their investiture as a Scout.

## What Badges can I get?

Apart from the common Membership, District, County badges and the Group nametape, there are also Nights Away badges, Participation (Years) badges, and certain staged badges and three main Group Awards to be earned through the sections.

In addition each section has a number of different Challenge Awards and Activity badges.

These are most numerous in the Scout section where there are nine main Challenge badges and over seventy two different activity badges.

The highest award a Scout can obtain in their section is the Chief Scout Award, which is increasingly more difficult and challenging as it rises from Bronze level in Beavers to Platinum in Explorers.

Every young person is encouraged to work towards as many badges as they feel able, but it is not a competition, and not everyone will gain every award, primarily down to time.

The first badge earned will be the Membership badge, which as you move from section to section is re-presented as they are invested into their new section.

Every activity, and meeting night, will cover work to one, or more of the relevant awards, or badges, so attending as many events as possible, will ensure progress through the programme.



## What does it cost?

The Group collects a subscription fee; which is £120.00 per year, payable in 12 monthly payments of £10.00 per month by standing order; this is the preferred method of payment by the Group. If you are unable to pay by S/O, alternative arrangements can be agreed. This covers the Scout Association membership fee (£34 per annum) paid to UK Scout HQ, Hall use costs, all badges gained, training materials issued and other items for our weekly meetings. An initial one off payment of £15 is payable on first joining the Group, which contributes towards administration, insurance, Group neckerchief and badges etc.

In addition all Camps and activities are charged for, at as low a cost as possible. Typically a weekend camp will cost approximately £25 to £50. It all depends on whether you're camping or in indoor accommodation, and what activities and transport is required.

**However-** with respect to any fees charged all Leaders in the Group are very keen to ensure that the cost is no reason for a member of the Group not to enjoy any activity, or the benefits of weekly meetings. Any Parent or Guardian can contact the appropriate section Leader, or the Group Scout Leader, in strict confidence to discuss any problems of a financial nature.

**Gift Aid-** The Gift Aid scheme is a government initiative to help the voluntary sector through the refund of tax to the Group on the amount of fees paid for membership, by those people who are taxpayers. Put simply it costs Parents nothing, but allows us to recover from the Inland Revenue the equivalent of 20% of subscriptions paid. A Gift Aid declaration will be sent out to Parents for signature, as and when a claim is to be made.

## Group Records

Under the rules of data protection we should point out that we keep limited personal details of Scouts on the official scout Association record cards and HQ data collection.

This data is used solely for bona fide Scouting purposes only, and is limited to address, age special health care and Parental / Guardian arrangements.

Under no account is any of this data released to any other third party.

Similarly, many of the events and activities organised through the sections are often photographed, and sometimes even filmed, to provide a record of the event and of some of those who have taken part. All these images are kept within the Group, viewing only by family and Group members, at events like our AGM or presentation nights. None of the image data will be released outside of Scouting.



## Behaviour

### Statement

'The Leaders and Section Members of 11<sup>th</sup> Sefton East Scout Group will work together to promote good behaviour in the sections whilst having a programme which is both challenging and fun'.

All members are to follow the Group 'Code of Conduct' and the sections Law and Promise.

Behaviour is constantly monitored; bad behaviour is not acceptable and will be dealt with using the Group yellow and red card system.

A yellow card being a written warning to parent / guardian.

A red card being a written warning with one week suspension.

Unacceptable on going bad behaviour will result in suspension from the Group which will be sanctioned by the Group Scout Leader's approval.

The right to appeal on dismissal is via the District Commissioner.

## And Finally

The Group is one of the most successful in the area, and indeed Merseyside, thanks to a team of Voluntary leaders and helpers, and the support they get from the Group Council, made up of parents and supporters of the Group.

We are all fully aware of the demands on people's time, but to continue the Groups success we do need whatever help you can give.

All parents automatically become a member of the Group Council, so you too can help and support our fundraising, help maintain our equipment and continue our work with young people.

Every little bit of support is very much appreciated, and if everyone helps it makes it a whole lot easier.

And don't forget that many leaders are parents too, and are only too keen to answer any of your questions to help membership of the Group be a happy and successful one.

Thank You.



## Useful phone numbers and Email addresses

Group Scout Leader: Dave Winrow: 0151 526 2625. [d.winrow@btinternet.com](mailto:d.winrow@btinternet.com)

Beaver Scout Leader: Sharon Woods: 0151 293 2030

Cub Leader: Matthew Stemp: 0151 531 7308. [matthewstemp@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewstemp@hotmail.com)

Scout Leader: Brian Holdsworth: 07729014192. [brianpooh@googlemail.com](mailto:brianpooh@googlemail.com)

Explorer Scout Leader; Mike Winrow: 07767246367. [mike.winrow@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.winrow@btinternet.com)

Group Chairman: Tony Walsh: 07980287611. [TonyW1@aol.com](mailto:TonyW1@aol.com)

