

Together we can make scouting amazing!



Community Ambassador
Information pack


Scouts
South London

Life is an adventure

As scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more.

Each week, we give young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped scouts become social workers, teachers, doctors, engineers, fire fighters, bus drivers, nurses, foster parents and olympians (to name but a few): In short they are the people who make our society work. Scouts are all around you. You will know them by their values: cooperation, respect and integrity that they learnt when they were young.

When our members memorised their scout promise on a cold weekday night, they are not just joining a youth club, they are choosing a code which many of them will follow throughout their lives.

They are making a choice to live a meaningful life, full of fun, adventure and friendship and to put others before themselves.





Scouting changes lives

A recent independent report into scouting's impact found that we make a huge difference both to the lives of our members and across the wider community.

...Young people

- 88% of our young people said that scouting helps them improve their key skills, including social skills, teamwork ability, leadership ability and confidence.
- 92% of our young people said that scouting helped them build good relationships and long-lasting friendships.
- 88% of our young people said that scouting helped them at school and in employment.

...Volunteers

- 95% of our volunteers said that scouting helped them improve their physical skills, including the improved ability to cope with outdoor conditions.
- 97% of our volunteers said that being involved helped them with relationship building.
- 41% of wider community organisations said that if scouting was on a job applicant's C.V. it would be a positive influence on their appointment.

...Communities

- 82% of young people and 90% of adults take part in community service or a volunteering activity at least once a year.
- 41% of scouts volunteer for other charitable organisations.
- 80% of community organisations and local businesses surveyed believe that scouting benefits their organisation and 69% said scouting involvement benefited their clients or service users.

...Relevant skills

- Over 90% of our volunteers believe that the skills and experiences they have gained through scouting have been relevant to their working or personal lives, so we're certainly doing something right.
- Two-thirds of respondents reported a direct correlation between their volunteer experience within scouting and gaining employment or career development.



Our structure

Scouting across the UK is divided into around 160 administrative areas, we call these Scout Counties. Within a Scout County, there are a number of Scout Districts, and within a Scout District there are a number of Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and a Scout Network.

Our three youngest age groups (we call them sections) – Beavers (6 to 8 years), Cubs (8 to 10½ years) and Scouts (10½ to 14 years), make up a Scout Group, of which there are around 7,500 across the country (94 of these are in South London).

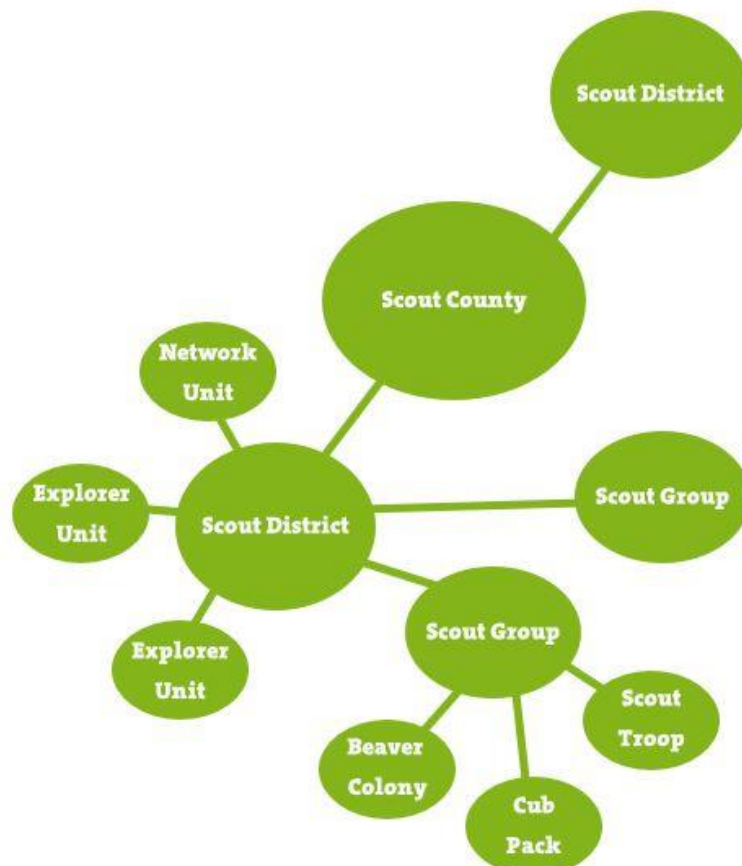
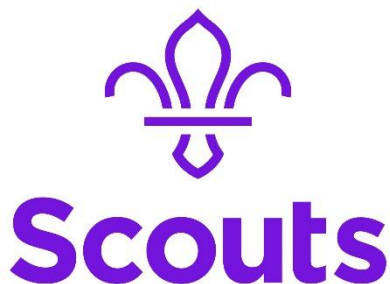
Our volunteer leaders are responsible for planning and delivering the programme to the young people in their Section. Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders are supported by a Group Manager (we call them the Group Scout Leader). The Group Scout Leader is the lead volunteer in the Scout Group and is responsible for making sure the group has a team of suitable adults who are well trained, supported and have the equipment they need to run amazing programmes.

Each Scout District has a District Commissioner, they are the lead volunteer in the Scout District and is responsible for the provision of scouting in the area the Scout District covers. The District Commissioner supports the Group Scout Leaders in the District and also leads a District Team which is responsible for supporting the leaders in the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer sections across the District.

District Commissioners are supported by a County Commissioner and the County Team. Scout Counties are made up of a number of Scout Districts.

Each Group, District and County elects a body of trustees including a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and a number of Board Members. We call this group of volunteers the Executive Committee.

The Group, District or County Executive Committee works with the relevant volunteer manager (Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner or County Commissioner), to ensure that the Scout County, District or Group operates in accordance with the Policies, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and the rules of the UK Charity Commission.



Our age groups

BEAVERS

6 to 8 years

Beaver Scouts are the youngest members of our scouting family. Easily recognised by their turquoise sweatshirts, they enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They usually meet once a week in a beaver scout colony. They also go on sleepovers which is often the first time a young person spends a night away from home.

cubs

8 to 10½ years

There are loads of fun things to do as a Cub Scout. Cubs get a chance to try lots of different activities like swimming, music, exploring, computing and collecting. Cub Scouts also get to go on trips and days out, to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm. Sometimes they will be able to go camping with the rest of their Pack. This means they sleep in a tent and do loads of outdoor activities.

SCOUTS

10½ to 14 years

The scout section is about spending time with friends, working as part of a team and participating fully in the adventure of life. Scouts take part in a balanced programme that helps them to find out about the world around them. Being outdoors is important and half the programme is given over to taking part in scouting skills, such as camping and cooking as well as adventurous activities, from abseiling to yachting.

EXPLORERS

14 to 18 years

From snow sports to environmental projects, camps, hikes, expeditions and international trips, explorers have a key role in deciding what they do. Not all Units meet every week, because it's members will often be out and about at weekends or in the holidays doing activities. There will be times when young people will be busy doing other things such as exams and being an explorer scout will have to fit around these.

network

18 to 25 years

Network members take part in activities which they normally organise themselves. They meet when they want to, perhaps weekly, maybe monthly. One week, they might be teaching climbing to some young people. Another, it'll be an informal meeting at someone's house to start planning next summer's overseas expedition. The scout network is what they make of it!





The power of volunteering!

Scouting simply would not exist without the enthusiasm of our adults. All our leaders and supporters are volunteers who truly believe in the value and impact that scouting has on the lives of young people and run their sections at maximum capacity. We are always looking for opportunities to enable our existing sections to take the maximum number of young people or to start new scouting provision but in order to do this we need support of adults to get involved.

Scouting is about everyday people working as leaders and supporters in their communities, giving young people confidence, a sense of purpose, life values and outdoor skills that are hard to find anywhere else – we call this 'skills for life!'

Adults in scouting are from all walks of life. The one thing they share is the enjoyment of working together and helping young people reach their potential.

We encourage everyone (over 18), to lend a hand as and when they can. We also run a fantastic scheme for young people aged 14 to 18 who are interested in helping out, called the young leader scheme, and this is also a great way to complete the service part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Everyone's welcome

We're scouts and everyone's welcome here. We want more people to join our team of go-getters, doers and give-it-a-goers and help make 'scout nights' even better for more young people. Everyone has something to offer to support local scouting, So, whatever their age or ability we have a role that will suit them and not all our roles involve working directly with young people, so there are many ways they can get involved and help make a difference, these include:

...Running activities for young people

Working as part of a small leadership team to help plan and run an exciting programme for members of one of our youth sections. They can do this on a flexible basis: be it weekly, bi-weekly, once a month or as it suits them.

...Become a volunteer manager

Our volunteer managers provide support and guidance to other adult volunteers, so they are motivated and inspired to provide first class scouting opportunities for young people. Whether it's someone to talk to or thank them, or practical help with managing resources and recruiting other volunteers. These are important and rewarding roles.

...Providing expertise

Help manage short projects, organise events, manage funds, recruit more adults, marketing and publicity or deliver training to our adults. To name a few ways to help us make a difference!

...Helping to coordinate local scouting

Our trustee roles are a great way of helping with minimal time commitment. Our trustees help make decisions about local scouting and ensure our leadership teams have everything they need to run quality programmes.

...Help provide active support

'Active support' means helping out when needed. It could be by running activity badges for young people, helping with catering for events or camps, assisting with running activities, helping with transport or anything else that would support local scouting. It's a way for people to offer some of their time to scouting and helping when it's good for them.

There's never been a better time to get involved and help inspire our members to be the leaders of the future.



Why volunteer?

With award winning training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make the best use of their skills and talents. It's something different from the norm, and that's why a lot of people like it. It's a great way to make friends, meet new people and above all enjoy yourself. In fact, it's what's made us the largest co-educational youth movement in the country.

...Career prospects

Volunteering gives people the opportunity to test out potential career choices, helping them to find a job they love. The experiences they gain are invaluable when applying for jobs, proving both their interest in a particular career path and their success at it.

...Developing new skills

Volunteering improves employability by developing skills. When someone volunteers, they can learn how to communicate better with people and work as part of a team to achieve their goal. These are all things that help to make their CV look more interesting when applying for jobs. By volunteering, they can also show employers that they have an interest in improving both their community and them self beyond academic study. Employers are increasingly seeking 'well-rounded' individuals, i.e. people who can show more than just academic achievement. Volunteering helps people to develop skills and attributes they do not necessarily use in a classroom. These include planning, leadership, motivation and self-management.

...Give something back

Many people recognise that there are a wide range of community organisations helping young people, and indeed many people have benefited from their support. They understand that young people get a lot out of the activities provided by volunteers and want to give something back to their community in the same way.

...Making friends

Volunteering is a great way to meet people with similar interests and to simply have fun. Working with young people provides the opportunity to get involved with a variety of activities and can be a chance for a volunteer to rediscover adventure for themselves, whilst supporting young people, making new friends and having lots of fun.

...Building self confidence

Many volunteers encounter a variety of new challenges when they begin giving time in their communities. Sharing new experiences with new people, they can learn new skills that can give them confidence to face challenges in other areas of their lives.

....It's a good thing

Volunteering gives people the chance to help others to achieve their goals and succeed in what they want to do. Helping others in this way can lead to greater self-esteem and encourage them to face and overcome new and bigger challenges.

...Volunteer training

Our award-winning training scheme means that adults get as much from scouting as our young people.

Our modular training scheme delivers the full spectrum of skills required. Volunteers can choose training modules that are relevant to the role that they do, ranging from leadership to running residential experiences and first aid.

Our training scheme has been recognised with a National Training Award from UK Skills. It is one of the reasons why we have managed to increase our volunteer numbers over the past few years.

We're all about flexibility

We know that life can be busy, so we're all about flexibility: People really can give as much of their time as they choose on their terms! Whether they can spare one hour a week, a month or a term, it's far easier to provide exciting activities at our meetings if we have more support. People sometimes think that they have nothing to offer but they are always surprised!

Our key message is...

Give



Just 1 Hour

A week, a month or a term - whatever suits you!

Give us just one hour - in a way that suits you and you can help us provide scouting to even more young people.

You don't need to know anything about scouting - What's more important is your own skills and experience as well as empathy with our mission and values. We provide a warm welcome, a sociable network, a relevant level of easy to access training which is designed to acknowledge your experience and aims to support you in the areas where you need additional support, lots of online resources to help you as well as ongoing face to face support.

Being part of scouting is great fun and it goes without saying that helping young people can be one of the most rewarding things you can do, plus it also looks great on your CV!

On the following pages we showcase some of the roles we have at group level to get involve so we can provide scouting to even more young people....



Opportunities to work with young people



Work with 6 to 8 year olds as a member of our beaver leadership team

Do you enjoy having fun and using your imagination? Can you inspire young people aged between 5¾ and 8 years old to focus their energy and reach their full potential?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, beaver leaders assist in the planning and delivery of an exciting programme of outdoor activities, crafts, community projects, games, challenges and even for many, their first night away from home at a beaver sleepover!

This is a fun and rewarding role and is ideal for people that enjoy working with young people. Overtime you will see members grow in confidence and ability as they learn from the programme you help run.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours a week or a fortnight (plus a bit of programme planning)

Help with our beavers as a Colony Assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a colony assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as beavers in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, colony assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours at section meetings as suits you (ideally at least once a month)



Work with 8 to 10½ year olds as a member of our cub leadership team

Do you have a passion for getting outside and trying new things? Could you encourage and lead young people aged 8 to 11 years old to discover and learn through excitement, teamwork and adventure?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, cub scout leaders assist in the planning and delivery of an exciting programme of outdoor activities, games, crafts, exploring the outdoors, community projects, challenges and the excitement of a few days away in a tent!

This is a fun and rewarding role and is ideal for people that enjoy working with young people. Overtime you will see members grow in confidence and ability as they learn from the programme you help run.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours a week or a fortnight (plus a bit of programme planning)

Help with our cubs as a Pack Assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a pack assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as cubs in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, pack assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours at section meetings as suits you (ideally at least once a month)



Work with 10½ to 14 year olds as a member of our scout leadership team

Can you make it possible for young people aged 10 to 14 years old to experience life changing adventure? Could you support them in making decisions, taking the lead and developing independence, confidence and skills?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, scout leaders assist in the planning and delivery of an exciting programme of outdoor activities, community projects, games, challenges, learning about global issues, camps and even sometimes international trips!

This is a fun and rewarding role and is ideal for people that enjoy working with young people. Overtime you will see members grow in confidence and ability as they learn from the programme you help run.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours a week or a fortnight (plus a bit of programme planning)

Help with our scouts as a Troop Assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a troop assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as scouts in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, troop assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours at section meetings as suits you (ideally at least once a month)



Work with 14 to 18 year olds as a member of our explorer leadership team

Could you empower young people aged 14 to 18 years old to plan and run their own life changing adventure? Could you guide them in making big decisions, leading expeditions and undertaking their very own volunteering?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, explorer scout leaders facilitate and guide young people in the planning and delivery of a safe but exciting programme of outdoor activities, community projects, expeditions, camps, international trips and significant achievements including the Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

This is a fun and rewarding role and is ideal for people that enjoy working with young people. Overtime you will see members grow in confidence and ability as they learn from the programme you help run.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours a week or a fortnight (plus a bit of programme planning)

Help with our explorers as a Unit Assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, residential experiences and explorations all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a unit assistant, you could help our explorer unit go on even more adventures!

Importantly, unit assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings to help run the unit's programme.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role:

1½ to 2 hours at section meetings as suits you (ideally at least once a month)





Opportunities to help manage local scouting



Every scout group needs a group manager!

The group manager ensures the effective operation of the scout group. (A scout group normally consists of a beaver colony, cub pack and a scout troop. The group also has a team of trustees which we call the group executive committee.)

They ensure that the group is well run, has enough leaders and the adults in each section have the things they need to provide an exciting weekly programme to their young people. You will work closely with our group chair, the members of our group executive committee and if you choose to have one (or two) our assistant group managers, so If you like the idea of working in a small, flexible team to get things done to help our scout group be the best it can this is the role for you.

This is an ideal role for someone who is interested in supporting local scouting by working with adults and having some contact with young people.

Give young people the skills they need to succeed and find out how scouts can be just as rewarding for you. We're not going to pretend it's always easy. This is an important role. With big rewards.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 2-3 hours a week

Two heads are better than one – help manager a scout group as an assistant group manager!

We prepare young people with skills for life. But who supports the volunteers who make this happen? People like you.

The assistant group manager works with the group manager to ensure the effective operation of the scout group. (A scout group normally consists of a beaver colony, cub pack and a scout troop. The group also has a team of trustees which we call the group executive committee.)

Together they ensure that the group is well run and the adults in each section have the things they need to provide an exciting weekly programme to their young people. You will work closely with our group manager, group chair and the members of our group executive committee, so If you like working in a small, flexible team to get things done this is the role for you.

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Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 2-3 hours a week

Support us in the background as our Group Chair

Do you have good organisational skills and enjoy motivating a team? Then you could be the chair of our group committee!

Our group committee, officially called the group executive committee, plays a key role in the running of our group. The members make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality scouting can be delivered to young people in our sections. The committee plays a very important part in the running of our group. In fact, we could not function properly without it!

Although the 'executive' bit in our committee's title makes it sound very formal, it is not like that at all - our committee is made up of people like you! All our committee members have different skills to offer, come from different backgrounds and have varying experiences. This helps to ensure a variety of perspectives and a more rounded and effective committee.

As chair you will manage the meetings and work with our group scout leader to ensure our group operates in accordance with the policies and rules of The Scout Association.

This is the ideal role for someone who does not necessarily wish to work directly with young people but would like to help to support the development of scouting in the local community.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month





Opportunities to support local scouting



Help keep track of our money as our Group Treasurer

Do you have a good head for numbers without losing sight of the big picture? If so, you could use your talents to help transform the lives of young people in our local community.

Our group treasurer supports the group scout leader and the members of our group committee by keeping track of our money.

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This is a rewarding role and is ideal for someone who would like to support local scouting but not by working directly with young people. If you've got an eye for figures, then why not support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team by taking on this vital role.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month

Take the notes at our committee meetings as our Group Secretary

Do you like keeping paperwork in order? Do you have a great eye for detail and more than your fair share of common sense? If so, we could use your talents to help transform the lives of young people in our local community.

Our group secretary assists our group scout leader and group chair in the effective running of our group by providing light admin. support. This includes recording the actions decided at our group committee meetings and writing the occasional email.

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This is a rewarding role and is ideal for someone who would like to support local scouting but not by working directly with young people. If you have an eye for light admin., then why not support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team by taking on this vital role.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month

Lend a hand from home and help ease the load as our Group administrator

Do you like keeping paperwork in order? Do you have a great eye for detail and more than your fair share of common sense? If so, we could use your talents to help transform the lives of young people in our local community.

Our group administrator assists our leaders with the light administration of the group. This could be with things like coordinating the membership records of our adults and young people, collating information for our annual membership submission, helping with logistics in relation to a group-wide event or records of property and equipment.

This is a rewarding role that could be easily shared with one or two others to share the tasks and is ideal for someone (or a team), who would like to support local scouting in a really flexible way and by not working directly with young people. If you have an eye for light admin., then why not support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team by taking on this vital role.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month

Help make decision as a Committee Member

If you would like to help scouting but don't have the time to be a leader or helper, then our group committee is a great way of helping our group with minimal time commitment.

Our group committee, officially called the group executive committee, plays a key role in the running of our group. The members make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality scouting can be delivered to young people in our sections. The committee plays a very important part in the running of our group. In fact, we could not function properly without it!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 or 4, 2-hour meetings a year



Provide help when it's needed as a member of our active support team

Anyone over the age of 18 can join our group active support unit. Scout active support forms a large part of the “backbone” of scouting.

Providing active support is about being part of a network of people that support scouting in our group and means helping out as and when needed on your terms.

It could be to help run an activity badge for young people, helping with paperwork, catering for events or camps, running projects, helping with transport, assisting with day trips, activities or anything else that would support scouting. Everyone has something to offer to support local scouting, whatever your age or ability.

This is a very flexible and informal way to be involved in supporting local scouting and is ideal if you can't make a firm commitment but want to support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team. We know that life can be busy, so we're all about flexibility: You really can give as much or as little of your time as you choose on your terms!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as and when it suits you!

Keep our equipment in order as our Equipment Manager

Can't help coiling a loose rope when you see one? Do you always insist on packing away a tent the right way? If so, we need your keen eye!

We need a positive, practical person to be our group equipment manager to maintain our equipment and look after our stores. You'll join a friendly team committed to helping change the lives of young people.

No specific time commitment is required, and the role is flexible enough to fit around you. You don't need to know anything about scouting - we provide a warm welcome, a sociable network and a short online training module to help you get started as well as lots of ongoing support.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as and when it suits you!



