

Together we can make scouting amazing!



Community Ambassador
Information Pack


Scouts
South London

We are South London Scouts...

South London Scouts is responsible for the growth and development of Scouting in the London Boroughs of Royal Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth. We have 94 Scout Groups and 28 Explorer Scout Units spread across our five Scout Districts which mirror the London Borough boundaries.

Every week over 1,700 adults give some of their free time to help provide exciting programmes to over 4700 young people aged between 6 and 25 years. They carry out a variety of roles to help manage, support, govern and administer local scouting and run activities for Beavers (6 to 8 year olds), Cubs (8 to 101/2), Scouts (101/2 to 14 year olds), Explorers (14 to 18 year olds) and Scout Network (18 to 25 year olds).

Our values

As scouts we are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it
- Respect - We listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground
- Care - We are friends to all and think of others before ourselves
- Belief - We believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes
- Cooperation - Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.

What we stand for

We are scouts and everyone is welcome. We have a positive impact on individuals - young people and adults and local communities by offering challenge and adventure, fun and friendship and skills for life.


Scouts
South London

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

network

    #SouthLondonScouts

southlondonscouts.org.uk

contact.us@southlondonscouts.org.uk



...LIFE CHANGING

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 four youngest age groups (we call them sections) – Squirrels (4 to 6 years), 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).

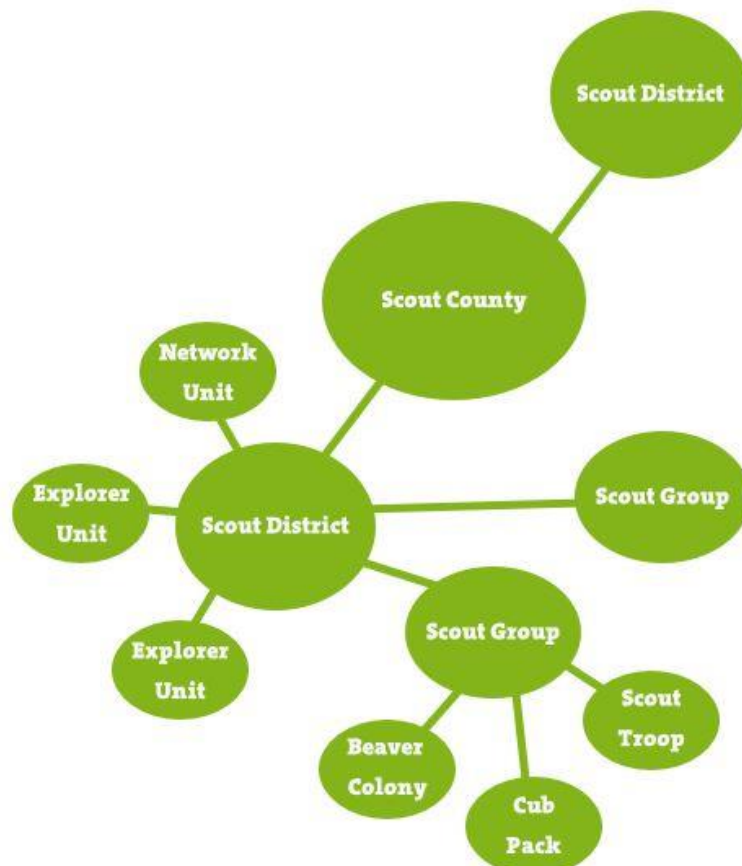
Our volunteer leaders are responsible for planning and delivering the programme to the young people in their Section. Squirrels, Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders are supported by a Group Manager (we call them the Group Lead). The Group Lead is the lead volunteer in the Scout Group and is responsible for 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 Lead, 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 Lead supports the Group Leads in the District and also leads a District Team which is responsible for supporting the leaders in the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer sections across the District.

District Leads are supported by a County Lead 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 Trustee Board.

The Group, District or County Trustee Board works with the relevant volunteer manager (Group, District, or County Lead), 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

Squirrels

4 and 5 years

Squirrels is a completely new provision for 4–5 year olds. There are plenty of reasons to get stuck in. Squirrels gives young people the chance to make friends, have fun outdoors, learn new things and earn badges through fun activities.

BEAVERS

6 to 8 years

Beavers are 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!'

With basic facilities and volunteer support, Scouting provides life-changing opportunities and adventure to both young people and adults. When someone talks to us about volunteering, we find a role that fits with their time and skills. If that means an hour a month, then we'll work out how we can make the most of that. Most importantly, we'll work hard to make that one hour enjoyable and meaningful for the volunteer too.

Adults in scouting are from all walks of life. From the Duchess of Cambridge or our Chief Scout, TV adventurer Bear Grylls to teachers, postal workers, shop assistants, nurses and stay at home mums and dads, there is no such thing as a typical volunteer. 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....

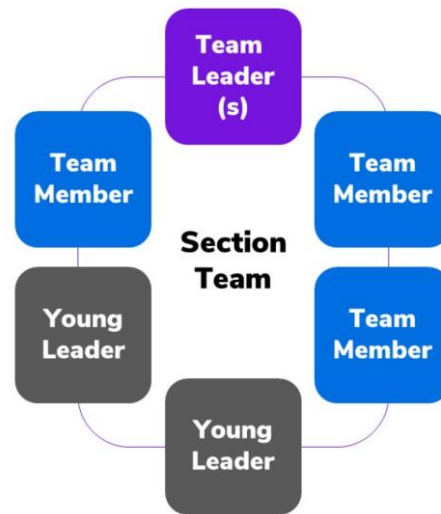
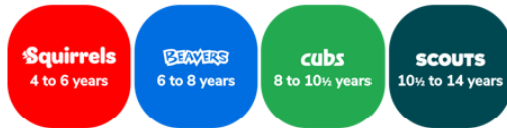


How the adults in your Scout Group work together in teams

In each Scout Group, there are three types of teams:

The Section Team...

consists of a team for each section in your Scout Group (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts), they work together to run high-quality programmes safely.



The Group Leadership Team...

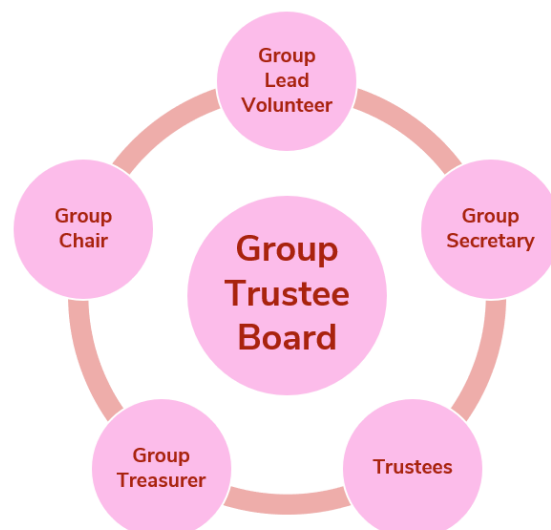
looks after the overall operation of your Scout Group and helps all the adults in your group work together to plan and run high-quality programmes. The team is led by the Group Lead Volunteer in most cases this will be your current Group Scout Leader.

The Group Leadership Team will include each of the Section Team Leaders and any other people that want to focus on supporting the whole Group.



The Group Board of Trustees...

Together, your Group's Trustees make sure that your Scout Group is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, equipment is in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and our policies, organisation, and rules. Their support helps your group's section teams run a fantastic programme that gives young people experiences that help them learn and will remember forever!



The way we volunteer is structured around these key principles:

- everyone can volunteer as part of a **flexible team** structure
- each team has a **clear purpose**, team description and set of team tasks
- we describe our teams and roles in **plain english** to ensure they are easily understood by everyone

All teams in Scouts help young people enjoy their scouting and take part in safe, fun, high-quality programmes. Each team has a team description. Team descriptions have two types of tasks listed:

- **tasks for the whole team** – All team members take part in these tasks *for example, the safety and the wellbeing of young people*
- **allocated tasks** – these are task that one or more team members agrees to carry out





























Here’s an example:

Hannah is the Team Leader. They do whole team tasks 1-3 and allocated task 1

Arnold is a Team Member. He does whole team tasks 1-3 and allocated tasks 2 and 5

Jess is a Team Member (she was previously a Section Assistant), and she does whole team tasks 1-3 and allocated task 6 which she can easily carry out at home

Jamel is a Team Member (he was previously a Section Assistant too), and he does whole team tasks 1-3. He hasn’t taken on any allocated tasks, at the moment, but will see what he may be able to help out with when he has more time available.

		 Hannah Team Leader	 Tom Team Member	 Mita Team Member	 Jamel Team Member	 Arnold Team Member	 Jess Helper
Tasks for the Whole team	Task 1 Whole team						
	Task 2 Whole team						
	Task 3 Whole team						
Allocated tasks	Task 1 Allocated						
	Task 2 Allocated						
	Task 3 Allocated						
	Task 4 Allocated						
	Task 5 Allocated						
	Task 6 Allocated						



Do you know...

- Scouting is a charity. All our adults are volunteers and the majority have a full time job and family
- About half our volunteers are female
- Not all adults in scouting wear uniform or work directly with young people
- All our volunteers are covered by a comprehensive insurance while taking part in scouting activities
- There are over 30,000 young people waiting to join scouting. The main reason for this large waiting list is that we need more adults to help us meet the demand for scouting across the UK.

How we operate...

All our adults operate within the key polies of the association:

- Anti bullying - bullying of any type is unacceptable
- Spiritual - understand and observe the scout promise
- Equal opportunities - no young person or adult should experience discrimination
- Safety - provide scouting in a safe manner
- Development - make scouting available to all communities
- Safeguarding - safeguard the welfare of all members



Scouts
South London



southlondonscouts.org.uk



contact.us@southlondonscouts.org.uk



[#SouthLondonScouts](https://www.instagram.com/SouthLondonScouts)