

RAF Recognition Scheme



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General

As a result of an agreement between the Ministry of Defence (RAF) and The Scout Association contained in MOD(RAF) GAI 1011, Air Scout Troops and Explorer Air Scout Units (Groups) who fulfil certain agreed conditions are granted Recognition by the Royal Air Force.

The scheme is administered by the Programme and Development Department of The Scout Association and Headquarters Air Cadets. Those Groups who achieve the necessary standard at their Initial Inspection are issued with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Commandant Air Cadets and a special Pennant. Active members of the Group are entitled to wear a special insignia on their Scout Uniform (in accordance with Policy Organisation and Rules Rule 10.29).

To retain RAF Recognition, Groups are required to maintain their standard, which shall be assessed at a regular inspection normally at intervals of not less than eighteen months.

Benefits of Recognition

The most important benefit to the Air Scout Troop or Explorer Air Scout Unit is the honour of being recognised as delivering consistently exciting and fulfilling high programme standards to its young people by the Royal Air Force.

Additionally, Recognised Groups and their Scouts and Explorer Scouts are permitted to:

- Visit and camp on RAF Stations (the Air Cadet Liaison Officer for the establishment is responsible for the routine work in connection with such matters).
- Authority to Fly in Service controlled Aircraft.

- Attend the Air Training Corps (ATC) Units for lectures and instruction.
- The use of ATC equipment and training publications (by local mutual agreement).
- Have on short term loan, RAF equipment and publications that will assist the training of Air Scouts and Explorer Air Scouts.

It has been agreed that these benefits are available subject to the prior claims of the Air Training Corps and the Combined Cadet Force (RAF) have been met.

To be able to take advantage of these benefits leaders will need to make contact with the Wing Executive Officer at their local ATC Wing HQ mentioning GAI 1011. If the local RAF Station is concerned about Health and Safety, Groups should do a Risk Assessment as they would for any activity using the information in FS120000 Activities: Risk Assessment.

For more information about the local RAF stations and where they are located please see: <http://www.raf.mod.uk/>. For more information about Air Cadets please see: <http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>. For information about Altitude the RAF Under 18s "club": <http://www.raf.mod.uk/altitude/>

Minimum Standards

Air Scout Troops, Air Explorer Units who aspire to gain or retain RAF Recognition status are required to meet certain standards. These standards are as follows:

- have either the minimum of 18 invested Air Scouts (including Explorer Air Scouts linked to the Group by a Partnership Agreement), or in the case of a

The Scout Information Centre

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Explorer Air Scout Unit a minimum of 12 invested Members, established as part of the District or local provision.

- have been registered as an Air Scout Troop or Explorer Air Scout Unit or Air Scout Group for at least one year.
- have sufficient Adult Leaders and Instructors to enable them to maintain and improve on the standards quoted.
- have achieved the following standards with a balanced programme:

Air Scout Troop

- 1) The Troop must be able to demonstrate that all members have the opportunity to participate in a balanced programme covering all the Programme Zones and using a full range of methods.
- 2) 50% of the Troop should hold at least one Challenge Award, and 25% of the Troop should hold at least four Challenge Awards.
- 3) Each member of the Troop should have progressed towards gaining the Basic Aviation Skills, Aviation Skills or Advanced Aviation Skills activity badges.

Explorer Air Scout Unit

- 1) The Unit must be able to demonstrate that all members have the opportunity to participate in a balanced programme covering all the Programme Zones and using a full range of methods.
- 2) Each member of the Unit should have progressed towards gaining the Chief Scout's Platinum Award; the Chief Scout's Diamond Award or the Queen's Scout Award.
- 3) 50% of the Unit members should have proved their interest in air activities by either:
 - gaining one or more of the three Air Activity badges;
 - completing the Explorer Scout Aviation Skills or the Explorer Advanced Aviation skills award;

- Completed the Skills, Physical Recreation or Community Challenges with an "air bias".

RAF Inspection Procedure

For details of the RAF Inspection process please see the flowchart at the back of this factsheet.

Initial Inspection

Air Scout Groups who consider that they have reached the standard required should seek the approval of their District Commissioner and then apply to the Programme and Development Department at Gilwell Park. If the application is supported, this is forwarded to Headquarters Air Cadets who confirm a suitable date for the appropriate ATC Regional Commandant to carry out an initial inspection.

This inspection is normally carried out by the ATC Regional Commandant, or his Deputy. The District Commissioner should be informed of the date of inspection, so that he may be present.

In addition the County/Area Commissioner should also be informed, as they may wish to be present at the inspection, together with other appropriate members of the County/Area team, such as the ACC/AAC (Scouts/Explorer Scouts) or Air Activities Adviser.

Re-Inspections

The programme for re-inspection of Recognised Groups is circulated by the Programme and Development Department at Gilwell Park. The inspection may be carried out by an officer nominated by the ATC Regional Commandant. To retain RAF Recognition the Group must prove to the Inspecting Officer that it continues to achieve the minimum standard required, as well as showing progress in efficiency.

Typical RAF Inspection Focus

RAF Recognised Groups are inspected approximately every 18 months by a designated Wing Staff Officer from the local Air Cadet Wing. There is no set programme for an RAF Inspection but certainly the event should allow for the Scout Group, Troop or Unit to invite local civic dignitaries, parents, supporters and appropriate

Scout Commissioners to be a witness to the achievements and standards of the young people and the leadership team. The RAF Inspection also often provides an ideal opportunity for targeted publicity and promotion of the Troop / Unit to the local community.

During an RAF Inspection the following areas will be looked at by the Inspecting Officer:

- Youth Membership
- Sectional and Community links
- Access to Facilities
- Aviation Knowledge and Participation
- Adult Leadership and Support (internal/external)

The programme planned for the RAF Inspection should be as normal as possible to enable the Inspecting Officer to observe a typical style of programme delivery.

RAF Recognition Approval

Initial and annual retention of RAF Recognition is approved by the Commandant Air Cadets on the recommendation of the Inspecting Officer and the Director of Programme and Development at Gilwell Park.

Applications for RAF Recognition

All applications for initial information should be made in the first instance to:

The Programme and Development Department
 The Scout Association
 Gilwell Park
 Chingford
 London E4 7QW

RAF Inspection Process Flowchart

