

# RAF Recognition Scheme



Item Code FS120707 Oct/02 Edition no 3

0845 300 1818

## Introduction

This is the third edition of the factsheet which updates that coded FS120707 and dated November 1999, and previously FS120176 (PT176) dated 1992.

Further editions will be published in the light of experience or if the requirements for RAF Recognition changes. The publications of future editions will be notified in Scouting Magazine, Talking Points and the Activities Newsletters.

## General

As a result of an agreement between the Ministry of Defence (Air) and The Scout Association contained in RAF GAI 5036, Air Scout Troops and Explorer Air Scout Units (Groups) who fulfil certain 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 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 Scout Troop or Explorer Scout Unit is the honour of belonging to a Group Recognised as efficient by the Royal Air Force.

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

- a) Visit and camp in the vicinity of RAF Stations (the Air Cadet Liaison Officer for the establishment is responsible for the routine work in connection with such matters).
- b) Fly as passengers in Service Controlled Aircraft.
- c) Attend the Air Training Corps (ATC) Units for lectures and instruction.
- d) Use equipment provided for the ATC (by local mutual agreement).
- e) 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 after the prior claims of the Air Training Corps and the Combined Cadet Force have been met.

## Qualifications for Recognition

To be eligible for RAF Recognition, a Group, Troop or Unit must fulfil the following qualifications:

## **The Scout Information Centre**

Glwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

- a) have been registered as an Air Scout Troop or Explorer Air Scout Unit or Air Scout Group for at least one year.
- b) 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 Explorer Air Scout Unit a minimum of 12 invested Members, established as part of the District or local provision.
- c) have sufficient Adult Leaders and Instructors to enable them to maintain and improve on the standards quoted in sub paragraph (d) below.
- d) have achieved the following standards with a balanced programme:
  - 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”.

#### Air Scout Troop

- i. 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.
- ii. 50% of the Troop should hold at least one Challenge Award, and 25% of the Troop should hold at least four Challenge Awards.
- iii. 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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 50% of the Unit members should have proved their interest in air activities by either:

### **Recognition Procedure**

#### 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.

**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.

**Applications**

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