

Adults – the backbone of The Movement



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0845 300 1818

Why Scouting exists

The Purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of the local, national and international communities. The method of achieving this Aim lies in providing an enjoyable and attractive balanced programme of activities, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

We welcome any adult regardless of their background, culture, gender, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. Our volunteers have a range of skills and experiences and come from all walks of life.

Being responsible for the well-being of young people in Scouting means volunteers must be of sound character and have the qualities to equip them for the trust placed upon them. The Scout Association has an effective, well-tried and tested system for vetting adults coming into the Movement to protect young people. The Scout Association requires its Leaders to be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced disclosure system.

What makes a good Leader?

The 89,669 men and women, who serve as voluntary adult Leaders, are the backbone of the Movement amongst whose qualities must be:

- i A belief in the Aims of Scouting and commitment to carry them out.
- ii Able to make the Scout Promise and accept the Scout Law, relevant for some adult appointments.
- iii Trustworthy in their relationships with young people.
- iv Resourcefulness, responsibility, and imagination.
- v The ability to lead by example.
- vi A genuine wish to help young people to develop as responsible members of society.
- vii A sense of fun!

Successful Leadership

The greatest skill an adult volunteer can possess is being able to relax the reins as young people develop in confidence, experience and self-sufficiency. Our adult volunteers need to adapt their style to suit the age range with which they work.

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scouts.org.uk

With Beaver Scouts (6-8 year olds), Adult Volunteers need to keep a tight control over activities. At Cub Scout (8-10½) age, when boys and girls begin to look for simple responsibilities, they can be given appropriate opportunities to test themselves.

Adults in the Scout Section (10½-14-year-olds), and to a greater extent in the Explorer Scout Section, encourage young people to exercise their growing need for independence by gradually assuming the role of guide and counsellor. With Scout Network Members (aged 18-25), the role of adult volunteers is mainly about being available for advice and consultation.

Local Appointments

Scouting is run locally in Scout Groups. A Group consists of one or more Beaver Scout Colonies, Cub Scout Packs and Scout Troops.

The Scout District organises the provision of Explorer Scouting; and the County organises Scout Network.

The age range for Leader appointments is 18 and upwards; there is no upper age limit.

Key principles of Adult Training

For all adult roles in Scouting training and support is provided. Appointments are made on the basis of an individual's skills, ability and suitability to take on a role.

The scheme is based around a number of key principles:

- Training based on the needs expressed by those involved in the Movement.

- Learning-based modular system with adults completing those relevant to their roles.
- Accessibility regardless of geography, education, and personal circumstance or special needs.
- Recognition of prior learning, experience and knowledge.
- Opportunities for adults across the Movement to interact.
- The combination of familiar Scout training methods, such as group work, with new methods such as e-learning.
- A national scheme recognised by all Counties/Areas.
- External recognition of Scout training.

The Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme has achieved official recognition for its quality. Many employers recognise the relevance of the skills taught by the Scout Leader Training Scheme to the workplace. Learning is available in a wide variety of formats and may be undertaken through the County or as residential courses at The Scout Association's Training Centre at Gilwell Park in North East London.

Adults new to Scouting will discover a social life with a purpose – and the opportunity to gain fresh skills. Successful recruitment and the retaining of experienced leaders help to ensure the opportunities Scouting offers are available to more young people.

Please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818 on how to get involved in Scouting locally.