

# Facts and figures about Scouting



Item Code FS295405 Feb 2010 Edition no 3

**0845 300 1818**

1. Scouting is the UK's biggest co-educational youth movement. Each week a total of 480,896 people in the UK are involved in Scouting activities. The organisation offers young people aged 6 to 25 and adult volunteers the experience of a lifetime. Call 0845 300 1818 to find out how to become a member or helper!
2. The aim 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 their local, national and international communities.
3. Scouting provides adventurous, challenging and fun development opportunities for young people, regardless of religion, race, social or economic background. Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking expeditions, water activities and adventure are still very much at the heart of Scouting.
4. Scouting is looking forward to celebrating 2011's World Jamboree in style with events and activities in Sweden!
5. Scouting is currently active all around the globe, with 28 million members in 216 countries and territories. Over two-thirds of this international involvement are in developing countries.
6. Total youth membership in the UK is 390,929. This includes 103,226 Beaver Scouts, 140,621 Cub Scouts, 113,058 Scouts, 31,976 Explorer Scouts and 2,048 Scout Network members.
7. In 2009, the adult membership reached 89,995. This includes Leaders, Supporters, Managers and Administrators.
8. There are a total of 23,845 Section units in operation: 6,862 Beaver Scout Colonies, 7,790 Cub Scout Packs and 6,735 Scout Troops. At District level, there are 2,141 Explorer Scout Units with 317 Scout Networks at County level. All figures sourced from Census 2009.
9. Scouting in the UK is firmly committed to co-education so boys and girls can meet the aims of Scouting through one programme. It became fully integrated in 1991.
10. Introduced in 1982, the youngest members of the Movement are the 6 to 8-year-old Beaver Scouts.
11. Cub Scouts, who belong to Cub Scout Packs under the guidance of Cub Scout Leaders or 'Akelas', are 8 to 10½-year-olds. Scouts fall within the age range of 10½ to 14 years and belong to a Troop led by a Scout Leader.

**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](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

12. Explorer Scouts are aged 14 to 18 years and belong to District Units. The widely-ranged Scout Network is for 18 to 25-year-olds.
13. Sea Scout and Air Scout Branches of the Movement cater for Scouts and Explorer Scouts especially interested in water and aviation activities.
14. The Scout Movement has a Law and a Promise at its foundation, which applies to every country. It has set in place appropriate modifications to meet the requirements of religion, faith or consideration. Open to all faiths, Scouting takes account for the varying religious obligations of its members, while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise. Alternative wordings are available to accommodate all.
15. Scouting is a truly international movement. Every year around 20,000 UK Scouts travel abroad to countries such as El Salvador, Romania, Thailand and Zambia. Scouts take part in a wide range of challenging and community-based projects such as building clinics, providing basic education - and climbing mountains!
16. International Jamborees, usually held every four years, involve as many as 35,000 Scouts from around the world, who all camp together!
17. In May of 2009, TV adventurer Bear Grylls became the UK's tenth Chief Scout.
18. In 2007 Scouting celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The UK hosted a World Jamboree at Hylands Park, Chelmsford in Essex with 40,000 Scouts from around the globe.
19. Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941), an unconventional but highly decorated soldier, began The Scout Movement in 1907 following an experimental camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour on the south coast of England. He later became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World.
20. The subsequent publication of 'Scouting for Boys' by Baden-Powell in 1908, attracted intense interest from boys-- and girls too, who gained their own Movement in 1910, the Girl Guides. It is now known as Girlguiding UK.
21. The Queen's Scout Award is the premier training attainment for UK Scouts. Formerly the King's Scout Award, it was introduced in 1909. Since then at least 100,000 have been awarded to those who have achieved its exacting requirements.
22. Gilwell Park, on the north-eastern outskirts of London, is the UK Headquarters of The Scout Association. Apart from its Programme and Training Team, it accommodates a small team of people providing professional services to the Movement such as Finance, Legal, International liaison, Development, Public Relations, Human Resources and Secretarial.
23. Baden-Powell House in London provides hostel accommodation for up to 180 visitors from around the globe.