

Responsibilities of the Student Scout & Guide Organisation (SSAGO)



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Introduction

The Student Scout & Guide Organisation (SSAGO) is an organisation that is affiliated to The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK. It has operated under its current format since 1967, but originally dates back to 1909. SSAGO currently has 40 clubs across the UK. SSAGO clubs are run by their members for their members and often have an active role in local Scouting. Each year a SSAGO club elect an executive committee to govern the club, and then every club reports to a National SSAGO Executive. This Committee is elected on a yearly basis at the National SSAGO Rally.

Members of SSAGO can be as young as 16 and as old as 60+ although in practice, most members are within the Scout Network age range (18 – 25yrs). SSAGO clubs will often meet once a week or once a month for a variety of activities and events in much the same way as a Scout Network meets and often a SSAGO club will be involved in joint activities with the Scout Network and Senior Section in their local Area. However there are a number of rules that SSAGO clubs have to comply with.

Insurance

SSAGO Insurance for its members is provided by Unity Insurance Services Ltd, which means members are insured when taking part in their programme. The terms of the insurance policy require SSAGO Clubs and members to ensure that any activities/events be conducted in accordance with the rules of The Scout Association as detailed in Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR). The only occasion where this is

not the case is when the activity is specifically organised by Girlguiding UK.

It is the responsibility of the National SSAGO Executive to ensure that each and every SSAGO club and member follows the appropriate rules.

Adventurous Activities

Chapter 9 of Policy, Organisation and Rules details the current rules for the safe undertaking of activities in Scouting. This chapter should be referred to when planning, running and undertaking activities. It should be noted that the following activities are not permitted in POR:

- Paintball games or any similar activity
- Bungee jumping
- Towing an inflatable behind powered watercraft

Adventurous activities in Scouting are subject to rules depending on the age of the participants taking part. Where a participant is under the age of 18, there is a requirement for an Adventurous Activity Permit holder to be present with a relevant Activity Permit suitable for the activity. Where all of the participants taking part in the activity are over the age of 18 years, the rule relating to Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities must be followed. Full details can be obtained from POR and Factsheet FS120087. Notification of all activities is required and this should be made to the SSAGO Chairperson.

It should also be remembered that any activity that takes the participants away from their home area will be required to appoint a Home Contact, again full details can be obtained from POR or FS120078.

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.scoutbase.org.uk

Nights Away Experiences

Similar to adventurous activities, Nights Away Experiences are also subject to rules depending on the age of the participants taking part. Where any members taking part are aged between 18 and 25 there is a requirement for notification for all night's away experiences, which should be made to the SSAGO Chairperson. Where the facilities being used, i.e. campsite, do not belong to Scouting, there is a requirement for the local District Commissioner to be informed.

The most common method for notification is using Form NAN (Nights Away Notification), however, the method does not matter provided that the information upon the Form NAN is conveyed.

Where a participant is under the age of 18 there is a requirement for the nights away experience leader to hold a Nights Away Permit. In addition, notification is required.

Full details of the rules relating to nights away experiences is available in POR and from factsheet FS120431

Emergency Procedures

The Scout Association's emergency procedures must be followed as per chapter 9 of POR and where the wording reads District Commissioner, the responsibility lies with the local SSAGO Chairman and subsequent National Chairperson.

Child Protection

Each and every SSAGO member must complete the relevant Criminal Records Bureau Check or Disclosure Scotland form. It is the responsibility of the local SSAGO Chairperson to ensure that each and every a member has been checked through the process. Forms are available from the Scout Information Centre and should be returned to them.

Should there be a negative response, The Scout Association will inform the local SSAGO Chairperson who in turn will deal with the situation with guidance from the Scout Association and the National SSAGO Executive.

It should be noted that the Disclosures completed under SSAGO are acceptable to be used in Scouting but the SSAGO member who is joining the Scout Network must produce the disclosure number for the County/Area Scout Network Commissioner or other relevant Leader/Commissioner to check. Should the disclosure not be able to be checked then the SSAGO member must complete the process again.

Disclosures completed through other organisation can not be accepted.

Where SSAGO members are working within the local Scouting community, they must adhere to the Scout Association's Young People First Policy and must have had a CRB check.

Award Scheme

SSAGO members who are not full members of a Scout Network are not entitled to take part in the full Scout Network programme and complete Awards.

Network or SSAGO (or both?)

The provision of both a Scout Network and SSAGO around a university town provides the flexibility a student needs to continue their Scouting/Guiding. It is up to the individual to make the decision to join, for example, Scout Network only, SSAGO only or both. Not all SSAGO members will want to join, or would be eligible to join the Scout Network. This flexibility enables students to fit their Scouting activities around their busy university lives. It is important to allow this decision to be made your members without them feeling pressurised to take one route or another. However some SSAGO members will want to help as a leader or as a Sectional Assistant at a local Group or Unit and good contact between Scout Network and a SSAGO club can facilitate this.

More information about SSAGO can be obtained from:

www.ssago.org.uk