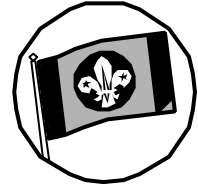


2.20 The Role of the Group Scout Leader or responsible Commissioner



Introduction

The Scout Fellowship has an important role to play in supporting Scouting at the local 'grass roots' level. To enable Scout Fellowships to effectively 'provide active support', the Group Scout Leader or appropriate Commissioner has various responsibilities and needs to consider.

Areas to consider

There are various areas which the GSL or Commissioner should consider when planning:

- Establish which Scout Fellowships currently exist and what support they give or are able to give locally.
- Establish which aspects of the local development plan can be met by effectively using local Scout Fellowships.
- Establish any needs which are not currently being met by existing Fellowships, and whether new Fellowships could be set up to meet them.

Requirements

As part of their role, the GSL or appropriate Commissioner has various responsibilities for the Scout Fellowship and works with each Fellowship Chairman to:

- Review and renew the remit of local Scout Fellowships at the appropriate level, ensuring that the needs of local Scouting are fully met (see factsheet "Agreeing a Remit for your Scout Fellowship").
- Approve the selection of (or appoint) a Chairman for each local Scout Fellowship (see factsheet "The Chairman of the Scout Fellowship").
- If appropriate, appoint an AAC/ACC(SF) to co-ordinate the work of the Scout Fellowship in the District or Area/County and to facilitate effective communications between different Scout Fellowships (see factsheet "The Role of the ADC/AAC/ACC (SF)").
- Ensure that all members of the Scout Fellowship understand the Scout Associations policy on Child Protection, and that Confidential Enquiries are completed where appropriate (see factsheet "Running a Scout Fellowship - Working with Young People").
- Ensure that proper accounts are kept by the Scout Fellowship (see factsheet "Scout Fellowship Finance").
- Ensure that all Scout Fellowship activities comply with the requirements of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (see factsheet "Running a Scout Fellowship – Adventurous Activities").
- Ensure that the Chairman of the Scout Fellowship(s) is included in routine communications on matters of Child Protection, financial procedures, activity rules and other policy changes.

The GSL / Commissioner should also:

- Encourage and facilitate attendance of a representative of the Scout Fellowship at all Group, District and Area/County, etc. meetings (see factsheet "Acting as a Liaison for your Scout Fellowship")
- Encourage the effective use of the Scout Fellowship by all sections of local Scouting.
- Promote the Scout Fellowship, for example, to: adults who do not wish to become leaders or helpers, parents of young people in the Movement: supporters: spouses of leaders: helpers: retired leaders: and any others for whom the Scout Fellowship could be a route of giving more support for Scouting at local level.

Providing Active Support

The primary role of the Scout Fellowship is to provide 'Active Support' to Scouting. Whilst there is no definition of the minimum level of 'Active Support', each individual member and each Scout Fellowship is expected to support Scouting in line with their remit, and within the boundaries of individual abilities.

Those no longer willing or able to provide 'Active Support' are encouraged to join 'Friends of Scouting UK', enabling them to maintain social contacts and keep up to date with Scouting.

By working together, the GSL or Commissioner and the Chairman of the Scout Fellowship will be able to identify and deliver the best possible support to Scouting. Some of the responsibilities detailed above may be delegated to an ADC or AAC/ACC (SF), but it is still important that the GSL or Commissioner has an overview of this so they can incorporate the Scout Fellowship into the local development plan.