

2.1 Starting and running a Scout Fellowship



This section is designed to help answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) relating to starting and running a Scout Fellowship. It provides short answers and links to other sections where more detailed information can be found.

This should be used as a 'quick reference' and as a guide to further reading.

FAQ	ANSWER
What is a Scout Fellowship?	It is the collective name used for any group of adults who provide Active Support to Scouting.
Where does the Scout Fellowship fit in with local Scouting?	At the Group, District, Area/County or even at the Regional or National level. See section 2.2 'Starting a Scout Fellowship'.
Who can join a Scout Fellowship?	Any person aged 18 or over. See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
What is the maximum age for membership of the Scout Fellowship?	There is no upper age limit.
What is the maximum size of a Scout Fellowship?	There is none (nor any minimum size). See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
Do Scout Fellowship members have to wear uniform?	No. Members of the Scout Fellowship may be either Associate or Full Members of The Scout Association. Full Members make the Scout Promise and may wear uniform if they wish to. Many Scout Fellowships use a sweatshirt or similar as 'uniform' for all of their members. See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
Can Warranted Leaders and Members of the Scout Network join a Scout Fellowship?	Yes, so long as they are 18 years of age or over, and understand that their membership of the Scout Fellowship will be the secondary to their role as a Warranted Leader or as a Member of the Scout Network. See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.

FAQ	ANSWER
Do members of the Scout Fellowship pay the National Membership subscription?	Yes – all Members pay a subscription. Note however that the decision to include members of the Scout Fellowship in a District or Area/County levy is a local one.
What can we call our Scout Fellowship?	<p>Anything you like, so long as it's legal and decent! Try to choose a name that reflects the purpose of your Scout Fellowship and not to choose a name that 'ages'.</p> <p>Note that the words 'Scout Fellowship' need not appear in the name.</p>
Do we have to have a 'leader' for our Scout Fellowship?	<p>Yes, usually the Chairman, although any other title may be used.</p> <p>See section 2.6 'The Chairman of the Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Who chooses our 'leader'?	<p>The membership usually elects their own Chairman, although the GSL or appropriate Commissioner has the responsibility of approving the selection.</p> <p>See section 2.6 'The Chairman of the Scout Fellowship'.</p>
What does the 'leader' of the Scout Fellowship do?	<p>The Chairman of the Scout Fellowship is responsible to the GSL or appropriate Commissioner for the proper running of the Scout Fellowship.</p> <p>See section 2.6 'The Chairman of the Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Do we have to have an Executive Committee?	<p>No, although it is recommended.</p> <p>See section 2.5 'The Scout Fellowship Executive Committee'.</p>
Does the Chairman or members of the Executive attend all other meetings on behalf of the Scout Fellowship?	<p>No, all members are encouraged to represent their Scout Fellowship at various Scouting meetings.</p> <p>See section 2.10 'Acting as Liaison for your Scout Fellowship'.</p>
How do we decide what to do?	<p>You will agree a 'remit' for your Scout Fellowship with your GSL or appropriate Commissioner.</p> <p>See section 2.11 'Agreeing a Remit for your Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Can we hold social activities?	<p>Yes, as they are a great way for people to get to know each other and create a strong team. No Scout Fellowship should, however exist solely for the purpose of socialising.</p> <p>Every Scout Fellowship must provide some degree of Active Support to Scouting.</p> <p>See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Are we allowed to raise funds?	<p>Yes, either to cover the running costs of the Scout Fellowship or to support local Scouting.</p>

FAQ	ANSWER
Can we have our own bank account?	Yes, although two signatories will always be required, one of whom may be the Group, District or Area/County Treasurer. See section 2.9 'Scout Fellowship Finances'.
Do we need to produce Annual Accounts?	Yes. See section 2.9 'Scout Fellowship Finances'.
Need we hold an AGM and produce an Annual Report?	In most cases, yes. See section 2.8 'Annual General Meetings of the Scout Fellowship'.
Must all members of the Scout Fellowship be 'active' within Scouting?	Yes. Every member of the Scout Fellowship must provide some degree of Active Support within Scouting, although no 'minimum level' is defined. Each member's contribution should be judged against 'their best', rather than an arbitrary standard. See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
Are we allowed to organise our own Adventurous Activities?	Yes, so long as they are conducted in accordance with the Activity Rules in <i>POR</i> . See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
Can we organise activities for the youth Sections?	Yes, so long as they are conducted in accordance with the Activity Rules in <i>POR</i> . See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship' and 2.13 'Developing Personal Skills in the Scout Fellowship'.
Can we specialise in the kind of Active Support we offer?	Yes, and this is to be encouraged in order to develop a skilled pool of resource which will be available to the youth Sections. Examples may be Gang Show Crews or Camp Site Service Teams, Canoeing, Climbing or Hill Walking Scout Fellowships. See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.
What responsibility does the GSL or appropriate Commissioner have to the Scout Fellowship?	To make sure that members comply with the requirements of Child Protection, Financial Management, and Adventurous Activities, Accounting and other Association policies, as detailed in <i>POR</i> . Approves the selection of the Chairman of the Scout Fellowship(s). Reviews the remit of the Scout Fellowship(s). See section 2.20 'The Role of the GSL or responsible Commissioner'.
Can the GSL or appropriate Commissioner delegate this responsibility?	In the case of a District or Area/County Commissioner the role may be delegated to an ADC or AAC/ACC (Scout Fellowship). However, the final responsibility for the Scout Fellowship always rests with the GSL or appropriate Commissioner. See section 2.20 'The Role of the GSL or responsible Commissioner'.

FAQ	ANSWER
Should we have an ADC Fellowship) in our District?	<p>Although this is the decision of the District Commissioner it is (Scout highly recommended where there is more than one Scout Fellowship in the District. District Commissioners are recommended to use the title ADC (SF) rather than that of Advisor or any other title.</p> <p>For more information on what they do, see section 2.21 'The Role of the ADC (Scout Fellowship)'.</p>
Should we have an AAC/ ACC (Scout Fellowship) in our Area/County?	<p>Although this is the decision of the Area/County Commissioner it is highly recommended. Area/County Commissioners are recommended to use the title AAC/ACC (SF) rather than that of Advisor or any other title.</p> <p>For more information on what they do, see section 2.22 'The Role of the AAC/ACC (Scout Fellowship)'.</p>
Can we start a Regional or National Scout Fellowship?	<p>Yes, as long as its aim and remit is one which can best be accomplished at a Regional or National level.</p> <p>See section 2.4 'Overview – Running a Scout Fellowship'.</p>
To whom is a Regional or National Scout Fellowship responsible?	<p>The 'appropriate Commissioner' is either the Area/County Commissioner within the area the Scout Fellowship supports, or the National Commissioner for Scout Fellowship.</p> <p>See section 2.11 'Agreeing a Remit for your Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Where can we get support for our Scout Fellowship?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your GSL or appropriate Commissioner • Your ADC(SF) or AAC/ACC (SF) • Other Scout Fellowships • The National Commissioners Support Team • <i>Active Support, A Complete Guide to the Scout Fellowship</i> • <i>Scouting Magazine</i> • Scoutbase UK <p>See section 2.19 'Support for the Scout Fellowship'.</p>
Are we allowed to support the local community?	<p>Yes, although the primary role of the Scout Fellowship is to provide Active Support to Scouting.</p>
Do we have to have regular or formal meetings?	<p>No, although planning meetings are to be encouraged.</p> <p>See section 2.7 'Running a Scout Fellowship Business meeting'.</p>
How do we know how well we're doing?	<p>By the annual review of your Remit and by occasionally completing the 'Running a Scout Fellowship' Healthcheck.</p>