

2.20 The role of the Group Scout Leader or responsible Commissioner



A supporting role

The Scout Fellowship has an important role to play in supporting Scouting at local 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 when planning

The GSL or Commissioner should establish:

- which Scout Fellowships currently exist and what support they give or are able to give locally
- which aspects of the local development plan can be met by effectively using local Scout Fellowships
- any need 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 works with each Fellowship Chairman to:

- review and renew the remit of local Scout Fellowships, ensuring that the needs of local Scouting are being met (see section 'Agreeing a Remit for your Scout Fellowship')
- approve the selection of (or appoint) a Chairman for each local Scout Fellowship (see '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 'The Role of the ADC/AAC/ACC (SF)')
- ensure that all members of the Scout Fellowship understand The Scout Association's policy on Child Protection, and that Confidential Enquiries are completed where appropriate
- ensure that proper accounts are kept by the Scout Fellowship (see section 2.9 'Scout Fellowship Finance')
- ensure that all Scout Fellowship activities comply with the requirements of *Policy, Organisation and Rules*
- 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 '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, retired Leaders, and any others for whom the Scout Fellowship could be a route of giving more support to Scouting at local level.

Providing Active Support

The Scout Fellowship exists 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 their individual abilities.

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.