

Making a difference

Getting involved in a Section as an adult in Scouting

Introduction

Ask a young person why they stay in Scouting, and they will probably say because they 'get something out of it'. This is true for adults in Scouting too!

Being an adult in Scouting can be challenging but also very rewarding. What adults get out of Scouting, depends on what they put in! Adults stay involved for a variety of reasons and some are the same as for young people – it is fun, there is chance to make new friends, and adults get the same opportunity for adventure. There is also the chance for adults to see young people develop and grow, and know they have contributed to it by passing on your skills and abilities and investing time in them.

Giving is often just as rewarding as receiving, and giving your time and effort to Scouting will certainly be very rewarding.

Before you were asked

Before you were asked to carry out a role in Scouting, an amount of preparation will have taken place. Somebody will have:

- thought about the job that needs to be done
- discussed the skills and the type of person needed to do the job
- identified people to ask.

You have been asked to volunteer because we believe you have something valuable to offer in this role.

Outline of the role

The main feature of being involved with a “Section” in Scouting is working with the young people. The actual tasks that you do will depend very much on the role you have been asked to carry out, and the age group you will be working with. However, whatever these tasks are, they will impact directly on the young people in their Section, contribute to the activities they do in Scouting, and help them to develop new skills, abilities and values.

Before you decide

Scouting will be delighted if you say “yes”, but it is important that you make this decision based on all the facts.

1. Start by asking some questions about the role, so that you have a clear idea about what you might take on – for example:
 - What does the role involve?
 - Where, and when, will I be asked to do the role?
 - Who will I be working with?
 - Who will I be responsible to, and for?
 - What help will I get?
 - What equipment and facilities are available?
 - Will I have to wear uniform, make a Promise or complete any learning?
 - For long do you want me to take on the role?
 - How much will it cost?
 - How much time will it take?

Some of these questions may have already been answered by the person who asked you to get involved, but make sure you have as much information as you need. Remember too, that the details are open for discussion – you may not want or be able to do everything that has been asked, but roles can be flexible to meet your needs as well as Scouting's.

2. Meet some of the people involved – you might want to see who you might end up working with. Find out what they think about Scouting and why they are involved, and you could ask to meet the person who would support you if you took on the role.
3. Have a go – you could always ask to go along and see what happens, take part in a Section meeting, visit a camp or weekend activity, for a short while to get a feel for Scouting and the role you could play in it.

Your decision

Scouting clearly hopes that you will say 'yes'. If you do not feel able to help, it would be better to have a clear 'no' or 'not at the moment', than 'a perhaps' that never happens. If you do not feel that the role suggested is right for you, but do feel that you wish to help in some other way, let us know. There is always plenty to do.

Procedures

Before starting a role in Scouting, the local Scout District (or County, as appropriate) is required to make sure there is no reason why you should not be involved in a Movement for young people. We do this in two ways. One is by seeking references from people who know you well. The second is by a criminal records check and by checking our records to see if you have been involved in Scouting before. These checks are designed to safeguard our young people and the Movement's assets. They are completed quickly and in confidence.

You will be asked to complete a CRB form, a simple application form, and then to attend a meeting of the District Appointments sub-Committee (or a County Appointments sub-Committee – depending on your role). The person who recruited you can explain this to you and may even go with you. There is also a learning requirement that you need to complete, however this should be discussed with you before you start in Scouting.

Be part of it!

Scouting has a lot to offer both young people and the adults that work with them. At times it will be a challenge, but there is the fun and sense of satisfaction from making a worthwhile commitment that more than makes up for that!

There are almost 100,000 adults who are regularly involved in the United Kingdom as Members of the Movement. Many more provide back-up support. Go on, be one of them!