



An introduction to the Scout Fellowship

So what is the Scout Fellowship?

The Scout Fellowship is a group of adults who have one thing in common - a wish to support Scouting. A Scout Fellowship welcomes men and women of all ages, interests and backgrounds. There is no need to have been in Scouting or Guiding before.

All that is required is a willingness to give some of your time to Scouting. In return you will make friends and be able to join with others doing whatever you decide. A Scout Fellowship has its own social and activity programme.

The aim of the Scout Fellowship is to provide active support at all levels of the Association from the local Scout Group to National level.

So what do we mean by 'Active Support?'

Active Support encompasses the talents of the Scout Fellowship of all ages and abilities, whether it is physical, mental, geared to a particular technical skill or general support. In fact just about anything! The important thing is that whatever the Scout Fellowship choose to do, it's aim should always be to make a real impact, helping leaders to deliver good Scouting and young people to learn new skills. The key to its success is its flexibility – always being there to help.

So who belongs to the Scout Fellowship?

A Scout Fellowship may be based around a Scout Group, District, County or a particular task, like canoeing, caving or gang-shows. The members are likely to be:

- people who would like to support Scouting but cannot commit to helping regularly,
- existing and former Leaders or Administrators,
- parents of Members and former Members,
- Scout Network Members,
- friends that would like to come along and enjoy themselves.

In fact, just about anyone!

Members of the Scout Fellowship are Associate Members of the Movement and may become full Members by making the Scout Promise. There is a small fee to pay which goes to pay the Membership Subscription and to fund activities.

How is it organised?

This depends on circumstances and the size of the Fellowship. Most Fellowships have someone who co-ordinates the activities, usually a Chairperson, who in turn has the support of a Secretary and Treasurer. In a larger Fellowship there may well be a small committee who turn the Members' ideas into a programme; in a smaller group this may be done by the Members working together.

What are the benefits?

A Scout Fellowship provides an adult with the opportunity to become connected to Scouting. A Scout Fellowship can help an individual find their own place in Scouting by providing links and introductions within the Group, District or County. A Scout Fellowship meets regularly but Members can join in, in a way that suits them. A Scout Fellowship can provide active support to Scouting either through regular commitments or by one off activities.

What will you have to do?

Since the Scout Fellowship is intended to provide active support to Scouting, you are expected to show support in a way that suits you. Perhaps the occasional evening, or a day or two each year to help organise or run activities, or support the young people, Leaders and other adults.

You will also find yourself drawn into the social activities of the Scout Fellowship and may spend time socialising or walking with new friends. The truthful answer is that you can take part as much as you feel you are able to, but it is recognised that you give your time voluntarily and that the support you give will depend on your circumstances and the time you have available.

The Scout Fellowship is ideal as it is designed to co-ordinate the time and support given by a variety of people in a variety of ways.

Procedures

Before starting a role in Scouting, local Scouting 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, and may be required to attend a meeting of the local Appointments sub-Committee. The person who recruited you will 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, and many, many more providing back-up support. Go on, be one of them!