

4TH SEVENOAKS (ST JOHN'S) SCOUT GROUP

Joining 4th Sevenoaks Scout Section

This is a brief introduction to the Scout Section.

The Group has a comprehensive Welcome Pack with lots of information about scouting and the group on our website (www.4thsevenoaks.org.uk/resources/welcome-pack/), which includes lots of information about scouting and our Group for you and your young person.

You can also find lots of information on the UK Scout Association's website scouts.org.uk

When to arrive? The scout section meets Fridays 7:30-9:15pm.

On the first week you need to complete the Membership details form, please could you arrive 10 minutes earlier. This includes contact details, emergency contact and medical information.

What to wear? Practical clothes until your young person wishes to wear scout uniform or is ready to be invested (make the scout promise). Once invested your young person should wear uniform to all scouting activities unless you are informed otherwise. Footwear must always be appropriate to the activity on the programme or at least appropriate for being outside in our grounds, at a minimum we would suggest trainers - school shoes are only appropriate for parades and other official occasions.

Where to buy uniform locally? Our website has a link (under Resources) to the Sevenoaks District run scout shop which is run by leaders to support District funds. It is also cheaper than buying online, visiting Horncastles or John Lewis. Please do try to purchase from the scout shop. It is open term time only on the 1st three Saturdays of each month 10am to midday. You can now check stock in advance or place an order by emailing scoutshop@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk. We also have a few second hand items too so do ask if you would like to look at these.

What is uniform? a scout shirt, a scout belt (optional), navy trousers or shorts. Any navy trousers are fine for weekly activities but scout activity trousers are best for official occasions and outings and are the same for each section. Scouts receive a scarf (neckerchief) plus woggle when invested. Please name all items - by their nature they are identical otherwise!

What to bring with you? To the first session a Membership details form - a copy might be emailed to you or you will find it within the Welcome pack or arrive a little earlier prepared to fill it in. We also ask for this to be completed annually, in the autumn term.

We remind scouts to always bring outdoor clothing, and in the darker months, a torch.

Scouting is for all - it is an open and inclusive organisation and Scout policy supports the principle that no member should be discriminated against so with this in mind please do give us as much detail as possible when completing these forms. This will enable us to give your young person the best possible experience in Scouting.

What does it cost? Subscriptions are paid at the start of each term currently £30. If you are new to the group this can be paid half termly @£15 for the first term. If starting mid-way through a term subs can be paid at £3 per week however please send it in a sealed, named envelope either each week or the appropriate amount for the number of weeks in the term. Camps/outings and activities outside of normal on site meetings have separate charges but no additional event is compulsory to attend. If your young person is new to the group there is a



"joining" fee of £5 when they are invested. This covers a scarf, badges and a woggle. When moving up to the next section, the scarf moves too and some badges transferred to the next uniform.

New badges can be bought @£1 each. Replacement woggles are £1 and a new scarf is £3.

What do Scouts do? While a Young Person is in Scouts they will have fun, make friends and get to do exciting activities that they wouldn't get to do anywhere else.

Each term a programme is put on our website along with other useful information and updates about the group. It is usually emailed or handed out to you too. Please see our online "Welcome Pack" for more information. Each year we try to produce a Key Dates list as well.

How do we keep in touch? Email is our main method of communication for any changes to the programme. "Group" emails will also be sent too via the Mailchimp system. If you need any forms printed for you or communication in another way please do ask. We also use Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Twitter to share snippets of news, photos and videos too.

If you have any queries or for any reason your young person is not able to attend one week please can you send an email or text to your Scout leader to let him/her know. Contact details are on this note and on our web site too along with all other member of "the Team" at the 4th.

What comes after Scouts? Your young person can continue in scouts until age 14 ½ years. After that there is still lots of scouting to do, with Explorers (14 – 18 years) and Network (18-25 years)!

How can I help? There are lots of ways to help – first of all just read and respond to emails promptly! From time to time we will ask for help with particular activities. We will also ask you to help out at Volunteer Days – where we undertake grounds maintenance at the site - a few times a year.

As a volunteer-run organisation there is lots of additional scope to help if you are interested, just speak to a leader!

Leaders

Scout Leader Sheila Burgin 01959 522201 sheila.burgin@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant SL Michael Dreksler 01732 762413 / 07977 480307 bluefish101@gmail.com

Assistant SL Carl Ellmer 07880 365489 carlellmer@hotmail.co.uk

Section assistants and occasional helpers - these are adults that help on a regular or occasional basis but are not necessarily in uniform: Donald Edgar and Rob Southwell

Young leaders aged 14 to 18 years old also support scouts are-Oli and Harry

Other leaders that support Scouts when needed are as follows:-

Jo Brookbank (Raksha) - Assistant Group Scout Leader - 4thSevenoaksAGSL@gmail.com - 0780 6601995

Paul Davis - Group Scout Leader - PaulDavis50@gmail.com 07884 436171