1st Oxshott Scout Group



**Welcome to Beaver Scouts**

**“Adventure all the way”**

The Verrey Hut

Waverley Road

Oxshott

Surrey

KT22 0RZ

JOINING

1ST OXSHOTT SCOUTS

WELCOME TO:

*The 1st Oxshott Scout Group* - consisting of Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts with linked Explorers from age 6 to 18 years old.  It is over 100 years old.  *The Scout Association* - the Scout movement in the United Kingdom and *The worldwide family of Scouts -* There are more than 30 million Scouts, Girls and Boys, in 216 countries and territories – it is one of the largest organisations in the world.

You will soon be invested in the Colony and can look forward to several years of exciting activities.  The accompanying sheets give you more information about 1st Oxshott Beavers and what we do.  They also detail the requirements for the membership badge (which you have been doing already without even knowing it).  You should read these and ask the leaders or your Lodge Leader any questions that you may have.  Please fill in and return the consent form.

Investiture is a formal but friendly ceremony when you receive the special uniform and badges that show that you are now a Beaver Scout, and is a chance for your Lodge and the Colony to welcome you.  You will make your Promise as a Beaver Scout in a similar way to millions of other people around the world who are Scouts.  You must look at the Promise and Motto and perhaps discuss them at home (but you do not need to learn them by heart).

You must complete an application form in order to join.

# Introduction from your Group Scout Leader

Welcome to 1st Oxshott.  Our aim at 1st Oxshott Scouts is to help young people gain confidence, friendships and new experiences from Scouting. Along the way we hope the children have lots of fun and gain the opportunity to try new activities and learn new skills.

With a history stretching back over one hundred years in 1st Oxshott Scouts we would like to think we have been fairly successful at achieving these aims!

In this booklet we tell you about the Beaver Scout Section which your child is joining. We mention the other sections but you will receive more information as you move on up through the Group. There is an accompanying booklet which describes the structure of the Group and how it is run and tthere are electronic copies of all of our booklets on our website [www.oxshott-scouts.org](http://www.oxshott-scouts.org)

What has made Scouting the world’s largest voluntary movement for young people?

The answer lies in Scouting’s appeal to a young person’s desires for fun and adventure and its provision through attractive and active programmes. It provides opportunities for developing in young people the qualities that make good citizens: honour, self-discipline, dependability, respect for others and self-reliance.

Scouting aims to prepare young people to take a constructive place in society and does so, not by preaching at them, but by making the whole thing into a game in which it is fun to take part. That, more than anything else, is the secret of its appeal.

However, in any game there have to be rules. The rules of the Game of Scouting are embodied in the Promise and Law.

Young people learn by doing, and Scouting offers activities to capture their imagination and enable each individual to find something in which to participate, develop skills and gain confidence. As far as possible, these activities take place outdoors as in camping, hiking, caving, sailing, mountaineering and many others, alongside a training programme which is structured from Beaver Scouts to Explorer Scouts.

Scouting teaches what is not learnt at home or at school and assists in character development. However, we rely on adult volunteers to make it all possible, either as leaders to run meetings, camps and so on, or as supporters to provide the material requirements and assist the leaders with the running of activities.

When your child joins the Group you become members of the Group Council, which usually meets once a year at the Group AGM. Thank you for your participation so far. We hope you will continue to ensure the Group survives and flourishes by either helping with a section, helping with the general running of the Group or helping with at least two fund-raising events a year.

Could I remind parents to park sensibly when dropping off or attending events at the Scout Hut, both in the car park and in neighbouring roads

I believe 1st Oxshott is a great organisation to be involved with and want everyone to feel welcome and engaged in Scouting. I am extremely proud to be Group Scout Leader and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anja Davidson, Group Scout Leader

**COLONY INFORMATION**

Leader: Brian Murphy (Beaver Scout Leader) – 07793 821188

Contacts Elizabeth Bryant (Colony Admin) – oxshottbeavers@gmail.com

 Anja Davidson (Group Scout Leader) – oxshottscoutgroup@gmail.com

Time: 6.00pm – 7.15pm Mondays except School Holidays and Half Terms.

Scouts: 6 to 8 years old, boys and girls in 4 Lodges of about 28 Beaver Scouts in total.

Special

Needs: Please inform leaders (in confidence if appropriate)

Data: Personal information about Beaver Scouts will be held in confidence on the Compass database and OSM.  Please contact us if there is any objection to this.

Web: Check badges and programme with your My.Scout login on Online Scout Manager

Group: www.oxshott-scouts.org.uk

District: www.esherscouts.org.uk County: www.surreyscouts.org.uk

We recommend that you name all garments and kit used on Scouting events - lots of lost property is found.

# About the Beaver Scout Section

There are 3 sections in the Group which your child may progress through until he/she is 14 years old: Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts (usually known as Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). After this he/she may choose to join the District Explorer Scout Unit which is based at 1st Oxshott Scout Hut.

Your child will belong to the Beaver colony of 1st Oxshott Scout Group. Which is led by a Beaver Scout Leader (BSL) assisted by one or more Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders (ABSL) and one or more helpers (Assistants).

All of the leaders your child will come in contact with during his/her time in Scouting have been through a formal vetting process to ensure their suitability to work with young people. The leaders take part in a comprehensive training programme including First Aid Training.

If you have a query or concern at any time please ask your child’s Section Leader or one of the Assistant Leaders. The best time to ask a question is usually at the end of the meeting as the leaders will have more time available. If you require further clarification on Scouting matters please contact Anja Davidson, Group Scout Leader.

For matters relating to the support activities of the Group please speak to Nicola Bond, Secretary of the Group Executive Committee. All relevant contact details are published on the Group Contact List which accompanies this pack and is available from your section leader.

If you would like to know more about scouting in general please visit the Scout Association website at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) or the 1st Oxshott website at www.oxshott-scouts.org. . If you don’t have access to the Internet and would like any specific information please ask and we will make sure you receive paper copies.

## Aims of the Beaver Programme

The Beaver Scouting Programme is based around three main themes : outdoor and adventure, world and skills. In each section a range of badges and awards support all aspect of Scouting, including the main themes : leadership, teamwork and personal development.

Our aim is to provide a balanced programme of activities during your child’s time as a Beaver Scout. This is centred around 6 areas :

* my world
* skills
* outdoors
* adventure
* teamwork
* my personal challenge

This means that your child will be given the opportunity to:

* Help others
* Play games
* Explore their world
* Undertake prayer & worship
* Listen to stories
* Follow themes
* Go on visits
* Make things
* Meet new people
* Act, sing & make music
* Chat
* Go outdoors.

**Online Scout Manager (OSM)**

OSM is a system developed by scouts for scouts, where we store all your and your child’s personal details, as well as badge progress, termly programs etc. We also use it for Camp organisation, events and some payments.

You will get an invite to join the system, where you will need to create a login password so you will be able to access your child’s page called My.Scout.

**Cost (Subs):**

The numbers of children involved in 1st Oxshott Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and Explorers has grown dramatically over the past many years, and so has the administrative burden of collecting subscriptions on a termly basis. We are therefore collecting subscriptions on a monthly standing order basis, which makes the process easier for both parents and leaders.

Current subscriptions (since September 2012) are £10 per month for the first child and £8 per month for additional siblings. You will receive an invitation to set up DD through GoCardless via OSM / My.SCOUT, please follow the link for quick and simple steps

If you have any questions, contact Anja Davidson at oxshottscoutgroup@gmail.com.

If you moved up from a preceding group your old DD will be cancelled and you will need to set up a new one.

## The Uniform

The Beaver Uniform comprises:

* Turquoise Sweatshirt
* Dark blue Activity Trousers (these are worn right through the sections)
* Black School Style Shoes for formal occasions

The Group scarf and woggle will be awarded at your child’s investiture. (Replacements can be obtained from your BSL for a small sum.)

Uniform can be ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; [www.scoutshops.com/](http://www.scoutshops.com/).

1st Oxshott have a scruff kit, consisting of a green t-shirt and a green hoodie with ‘1st Oxshott Scouts’ printed on the back. These continue through all sections of 1st Oxshott Scouts.

Each member is expected to purchase one of these at the start of their time with Oxshott Scouts. T-shirts are £10 and Hoodies between £10-£20 depending on size.

**Meetings**

Beaver Scout meetings take place on Monday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.15pm each week during school terms (Please note that the term dates may not coincide precisely with your child’s school depending on the school they attend). There are no meetings during the half term weeks. Full details of the dates of meetings and the activities each week are posted on the notice board and available on OSM.

**Getting involved: what is expected from my child and me?**

There are a few activities that your child will be expected to attend, in particular:

***St Georges Day Parade***

The St Georges Day Parade is an important part of the Scouting calendar because it is the one time each year that Scouts at all levels renew their Scout Promise. For this reason all Scouts, whether Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers or Leaders are expected to attend. We ask that the children wear formal shoes and full uniform.

***Remembrance Sunday***

Remembrance Sunday is also an important Scouting event. In Oxshott we ask all sections to attend a short service of remembrance at the Oxshott War Memorial located at the top of the hill above on the railway station on Oxshott Heath in full and smart uniform.

***Other responsibilities***

We, as leaders are all volunteers; we do not get paid; however it is extremely rewarding seeing the opportunities we can create for young people. For our Scout Group to run smoothly and continue to be a success we rely on parent help and participation, whether it is from home or at meetings and so your occasional involvement is important to us.

*The parent rota* is a necessary part of running a large group. Each term you will be expected to attend one meeting in conjunction with one or two other parents. Your role on the evening will be to assist the leaders in running an activity. Don’t worry - it is not onerous and usually it is a lot of fun! If you are not able to make your allotted date then please talk to other parents about changing dates.

*Christmas tree deliveries* are our major fund raising effort each year and every Scout is expected to take part in delivering leaflets and delivering the trees. The tree deliveries are run over the three weekends prior to Christmas with each section covering one weekend. Typically it takes less than an hour to make the deliveries.

*Family camp* is a full group annual event you might like to come along too. Usually arranged over the first May bank holiday weekend the camp is well attended by lots of families and offers the opportunity to bring along younger siblings and parents for a weekend of fun and activities.

Want to do more! We are always delighted when parents want to get involved. It doesn’t have to be helping on an evening it could simply be going to our management committee meetings as a parent representative, helping with fund raising or organising our annual fireworks night.  Any assistance is gratefully received.

WHERE DO THE BADGES GO?



**Uniform Items**

Beaver Scout Polo and Pullover, Neckerchief, Woggle, Dark blue Scout Activity Trousers, Dark Socks and Black Shoes.

**Available From**

***Online at -*** shop.scout.org.uk

**-** [www.scout-and-guide-shop.co.uk](http://www.scout-and-guide-shop.co.uk)

***Shops* - Guildford Scout & Guide Shop,** Nightingale Road, Guildford, 01483 506643

 Tuesday 16:00-19:30, Friday 9:00-17:00, Saturday 9:00-12:30

**- Walton & Weybridge Scout Shop,** 4th Walton HQ, Cottimore Lane, Walton on

 Thames, Any queries email dc@waltonandweybridge.org.uk

 Open during school term times, 1st and 3rd Mondays 3:30pm to 5pm, Every

 Wednesday 7.00pm to 8.30pm

**What You Need to Know**



**Beaver Scout Badges: The Scout Membership Award**

When a young person joins the Colony, the following requirements will need to be completed to gain this Award:

* know about the Colony
* Going to at least four meetings
* get to know other Members and Leaders in the Lodges and Colony
* find out about the ceremonies and traditions in the Colony
* find out about the activities that the Lodges and Colony does
* know and understand the Beaver Scout Promise and the rules of the Colony
* know and understand the Beaver Scout Motto, Sign and Handshake
* show a general knowledge of the history and family of Scouts and Scouting around the world
* know what to do at Investiture.

Once a young person has completed these requirements, and when they feel ready to make their Promise, they can be invested. There is no fixed timescale for this process. You should discuss timing with the young person.

**The History of Scouting**

Baden-Powell returned to England a national hero, after defending the town of Mafeking for seven months from the besieging Boer troops, the first real British triumph in the Boer War. When he returned to England, he discovered that many boys and young me were avidly reading his book *Aids to Scouting*. This book was intended as a military training manual, teaching soldiers techniques such as observation, tracking, initiative...

In 1910 B-P. retired from the Army to devote his time, effort and money (all his royalties from *Scouting for Boys* were ploughed back into the movement) into Scouting. This year also saw the first census of Scouts in the UK, indicated over a hundred thousand Scouts in the UK. So, in less than three years, Scouting had a firm footing.  After a trip to South America, Scouting started in Chile, and it was already crossing the channel into Europe.



By 1909 younger brothers wanted to join in the fun so the Wolf Cubs were set up in 1916 and in 1909 at the Crystal Palace Rally, B-P. came across a Patrol, who claimed to be *Girl* Scouts.  Initially B-P. was in favour of allowing girls to become Scouts (in separate troops), but had to change his mind due to the pressures of Edwardian society.  He established the *Girl Guides* in 1910, with the help of his sister, Agnes, and wife, Olave. For Scouts over 18 B.P. invented the Senior Scouts (called Rover Scouts).

The Association was modernized in 1967 and is again undergoing major changes.  Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts and Rover Scouts became Venture Scouts for young men and women.  Beavers (aged 6-8) were introduced in 1986 and there were new badges for the Cubs and Scouts.  Girls were allowed in in the 1990’s and most groups are now mixed so that Scouts is for boys and girls.

**The Beaver Scout Promise:**

I promise to do my best

To be kind and helpful

And to love God

**The Beaver Scout Motto:**

***Be Prepared***

**The Scout Handshake:**

All over the world, when a Scout meets a fellow Scout, they shake hands with the left hand.

This is a sign of trust and to show their membership of the Scout Movement.

In Africa, warriors used spears and shields in tribal wars.  To offer your left to another warrior meant having to put down your shield, leaving you unprotected. It became a sign of great trust to shake left-handed for this reason.

B-P noticed this custom when he was in Africa with the Army and later decided to make it the Scout's handshake to show our trust in one another.

**Colony Code of Behaviour**

To Be Added…

Read this carefully with your parents or guardians and discuss it with them.  It is a condition of joining that you adhere to this Code.

# Group Behaviour Policy and Code

This policy was introduced in 2018 and is ‘signed up to’ by parents and members over 8 years of age by completing the membership form and handing it to your Section Leader. All members and parents are asked to sign this on joining the Troop even if they have previously signed.

**Verbal Warnings**

If the behaviour of a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer is considered to have fallen well below the **‘Group Code of Acceptable Behaviour’**, that Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer, or group of Beavers/Cubs/ Scouts/ Explorers, will be given a verbal warning by a Leader. The offender(s) will be told to stop whatever they are doing and warned what will happen if they don’t comply.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour could be:

* continual talking, or verbal disruption when a ‘Leader’ has asked for quiet;
* continuing with unacceptable or disruptive behaviour after being directly told to stop;
* persistent refusal to follow instructions, or the rules of a game**.**

**Initial Formal Warnings (aka Yellow Card)**

If a verbal warning is ignored, the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer may be required to take a time out away from the other members of the sections. The form of this will vary from section to section. The Section Leader will record the name and details of the incident in the register. The parent(s) of the section member may also be contacted.

More serious bad behaviour could result in the immediate issue of an initial formal warning.

Examples of this type of behaviour include:

* threatening language or behaviour – (not involving use of physical violence);
* careless disregard of property leading to its damage;
* challenging the authority of a Leader, Instructor or Helper.

**Second level warnings** **(aka Red Card)**

If the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer commits a second Yellow Card offence on the same night they will receive a second level warning. Again, name and details of issue will be recorded and the Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer will not be allowed to take any further part in that evening’s Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting.

Parent(s) will be advised of the issue of a second level warning, as soon as it is practical to do so. Depending on the situation the Section Leader may send for the parent/guardian to collect their child early. Sending a Scout home, (if he makes his own way to Troop meetings) could also be an option, but only after the parent/guardian had been contacted and advised.

Certain behaviour could result in the immediate issue of a second level warning.

Examples of these include:

* bullying or physical unprovoked attack on another Group Member;
* blatant vandalism to property or equipment;
* deliberate defiance of clearly given instructions - particularly where safety is threatened.

Please note that some sections will operate this system using Yellow and Red cards:

**Suspension** - If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives a Red Card, he or she will automatically be suspended from the next two meetings and will not be allowed to attend camps or outings held during that month, or the next. In some cases the Section Leader may also request a letter of apology.

**Continual Offending**- If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives four Yellow Cards in any six-month period he or she will be suspended.

**Appeal –** If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer feels that they have been unfairly issued with either a Red or Yellow card, he or she can appeal to the Group Scout Leader to review the incident and punishment. Any appeal must be made within seven days of the issue of the card.

**Exclusion**- If a Beaver/Cub/Scout/Explorer receives three Red Cards (either as a Cub or Scout), then on issue of the third Red Card, exclusion proceedings will be initiated. This is a very serious matter involving the Section Leader, Group Scout Leader and District Commissioner and would result in exclusion from all Groups in the District.