1st Oxshott Scout Group



**Welcome to Scouts:**

**“Life Changing Adventure”**

The Verrey Hut

Waverley Road

Oxshott

Surrey

KT22 0RZ

**JOINING**

**1ST OXSHOTT SCOUTS**

WELCOME TO:

*The 1st Oxshott Scout Group* - consisting of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and 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 Troop and can look forward to several years of exciting activities.  The accompanying sheets give you more information about 1st Oxshott Scouts 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 Patrol 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 Scout, and is a chance for your Patrol and the Troop to welcome you.  You will make your Promise as a Scout in a similar way to millions of other people around the world who are Scouts.  You must look at the Promise and Law 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!

If your child is joining us from another Group or is new to Scouting, we welcome you to 1st Oxshott Scout Group, a growing successful group in Surrey. You may also wish to read an accompanying booklet ‘About the Group’ which describes how the Group is set up and run.

If your child has been a cub with us you will already know a lot about the way the Group works, but if you need reminding there are electronic copies of all of our booklets on our website [www.oxshott-scouts.org](http://www.oxshott-scouts.org)

In this booklet we introduce you and your child to the Scout Section which he/she is now ready to join.

Let me take the opportunity to remind you of what Scouting is about.

It aims to appeal to a young person’s desires for fun and adventure provided 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.

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.

We hope your child will enjoy the new challenge and build on the skills he/she has already acquired.

As you probably know, when your child joined the Group you became 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

**TROOP INFORMATION**

Leader: Andrew Burns (Assistant Scout Leader) – andrewburns@oxshott.co.uk

Contacts Corrie Haxton (Assistant Scout Leader) – haxton@cameronhaxton.com

 Susan Arnison (Troop Admin) – 1stoxshottscouts@gmail.com

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

Time: 7pm – 9pm Fridays except School Holidays and Half Terms.

Scouts: 10½ to 14 years old, boys and girls in 6 patrols of about 36 Scouts in total.

Special

Needs: Please inform leaders (in confidence if appropriate)

Data: Personal information about 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 Scout Section**

As you probably know Scouts is the last of the sections in the Group that your child may progress through until he/she is between 14 and 15 years old. After this he/she may choose to join the District Explorer Scout Unit, which is based at the Scout Centre but is run by the District.

Your child will join one of the patrols in the Scout Section of 1st Oxshott Scout Group: Cobras, Foxes, Hawks, Kangaroos, Lions and Stags,. The Troop operates quite differently from the Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs as the scouts themselves take on more responsibility. However, it still needs a lot of adult support as activities are much more varied and adventurous.

Scout meetings take place on Friday evenings from 7pm to 9pm 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.

As you already know, 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. For activities such as Archery, Caving, Canoeing, Mountaineering, Hiking etc. we have a number of trained scouters to lead these events and do everything they can to ensure your child’s safety.

If you have a query at any time please ask one of the troop leaders. The best time to ask a question is usually at the end of the meeting when there is 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 Group secretary of The Group Executive Committee. Relevant contact details are on a separate sheet accompanying this pack.

Don’t forget to visit the scout association website at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) if you haven’t already done so. 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.

## The Patrol System

The Scout Troop uses the ‘Patrol System’, which encourages the older Scouts to develop their abilities and be able to be responsible for others. A Patrol is made up of six or so Scouts, which is led by a Patrol Leader who has an Assistant Patrol Leader.

Some of the tasks that older Scouts can be asked to undertake are: put forward ideas for activities, help to maintain discipline, encourage team spirit, organise activities at a Troop meeting and accept responsibility for leading teams taking part in District competitions.

## Aims of the Scout Programme

The Scout Troop aims to provide a range of activities which challenge young people and help them to develop a range of skills, which can include the following: management of a team, teamwork, planning, organise, leadership, show initiative and take responsibility. It also seeks to teach life skills such as cooking, navigation and generally how to look after themselves.

Our aim is to provide a balanced programme of activities during your child’s time as a Scout.

An updated scout programme was introduced during 2015. This involves revisions and changes to activity badges, challenge badges and awards. The details of the updated programme can be found at <https://staging.scouts.org.uk/documents/The%20Balanced%20Programme%20leaflet.pdf> and comprises 3 programme themes:

* Outdoor and Adventure – 50% of the Programme
* World
* Skills.

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

Activities outdoors

Games

Design and creativity

Visits and visitors

Service

Technology and new skills

Team-building activities

Activities with others

Prayer, worship and reflection.

**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.

**Uniform**

The Scout Uniform comprises:

* Dark Green long-sleeved shirt
* Dark blue Activity Trousers (these are worn right through the sections)
* Leather Scout belt
* Black School Style Shoes for formal occasions

For most meetings uniform should always be well presented, and we ask that scouts come prepared to go outside if the opportunity arises at short notice: i.e bring a coat, and head torch / torch in winter. We also suggest that scouts wear their walking boots to meetings if they have them as this prevents damage to other shoes, and ensures that boots are well worn in for camps and hikes where they are compulsory, but trainers are also acceptable. For particularly smart occasions i.e. parades, competitions and investiture nights, uniform is to include the wearing of clean black shoes.

All scouts are presented with a leather woggle at investiture. If you are new to the Group your Group scarf will be awarded at the same time. (Replacements can be obtained from your Troop Leader 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.

**Activities and Badges**

With the introduction of the updated programme in 2015 there are nine Challenge awards within the section as follows:-

* World Challenge Award
* Skills Challenge Award
* Creative Challenge Award
* Outdoors Challenge Award
* Adventure Challenge Award
* Expedition Challenge Award
* Teamwork Challenge Award
* Team leader Challenge Award
* Personal Challenge Award

The highest award within the Troop section is the Chief’s Scout Gold Award. In order to achieve this a Scout needs to have attained all of the challenge awards above plus six activity / staged activity badges during their time in the section. There are 61 activity badges and 14 staged activity badges in the updated programme, some of which are covered within the Scout programme and some of which a scout may earn via interests and hobbies they pursue on a personal basis. In order to achieve the Chief Scout Gold Award scouts will need to both attend Troop meetings and participate in activities such as camps, hikes and competitions which take place outside Troop meetings, mainly at weekends. The onus is on the individual scout to be aware of and take responsibility for participating in and recording their progress towards their Gold Award, although the leaders will of course give guidance and encouragement.

Details of badge requirements can be found on the Scout Association Website under the members tab, member resources, scouts , badges and awards, or via an internet search on “ Scout badges and Awards “ or via the following link <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64,781>.

Many of the skills needed to pass the awards are gained through practical experience and sometimes it may appear that basic Scouting Skills are being repeated. This is to ensure that the basic knowledge is being retained and can be put to use at camp or in competitions. It is also often the difference in being able to do something oneself and to instruct others to do the same thing.

Core skills such as Camping, Navigation, Hiking and Pioneering are a theme throughout all of these awards, examples include:-

* Pitch, strike and store a tent correctly.
* Prepare, cook, serve and clear away a meal and a hot drink out of doors using an open fire.
* Complete with suitable equipment, a one-day expedition with friends by foot, navigating using map and compass.
* Demonstrate the correct use of six knots, bends or hitches used in Scouting activities.
* Take an active part in a pioneering project out of doors with your Patrol.
* Lead others on a hike, which includes setting a map, taking compass bearings, map references and knowledge of Ordnance Survey conventional signs.
* Plan and use a balanced menu for a weekend camp for your Patrol.
* Take a leading part in a pioneering project, which demonstrates the correct use of at least two different types of lashing.
* Plan a route for an expedition; describe by map reading what you would expect to see; go on the journey and report back to your Patrol what you saw and did.

Other aspects of scouting are covered by:-

* Participating in and leading scout teams
* Trying a number of “adventurous” activities and developing skills in one
* Participating in community projects and activities, and developing an understanding of international issues.
* Trying out different creative activities and taking part in a performance e.g a play, band concert or campfire sketch.

To keep up to date with activities we have a notice board in the entrance to the Scout Hut that enables you find out about the latest activities.

**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**

Scout shirt, Neckerchief, Woggle, Scout Belt, 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**



**Scout Badges: The Scout Membership Award**

When a young person joins the Troop, regardless of whether he or she was a Cub Scout, the following requirements will need to be completed to gain this Award:

* know about the Troop
* get to know other Members and Leaders in the Patrol and Troop
* find out about the ceremonies and traditions in the Troop
* find out about the activities that the Patrol and Troop does
* know and understand the Scout Promise and Law and the rules of the Troop
* know and understand the Scout Motto, Sign, Salute 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 Scout Promise**

On My Honour, I promise that I will do my best

To do my duty to God and to the Queen,

To help other people

And to keep the Scout Law

**The Scout Law is:**

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

**The scout Motto is:**

***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.

## The Investiture

This event usually takes place after your child has been with the Troop for approximately half a term. The Scout Leader will ask your child to repeat the words of the promise after him. The Scout will then be presented with a leather woggle and badges for his/her uniform. This is an important occasion and parents are invited to attend.

**Troop Code of Conduct**

* **Do** treat all people, Scouts & Leaders with respect and as you would want to be treated.
* **Do** as Leaders, PLs, APLs & Instructors tell you.
* **Do** be safe and have fun.
* **Do** show commitment to your Patrol and Troop.
* **Do** **not** use bad language, bad behaviour or fighting.
* **Do not** discriminate because of sex, race or disability.
* **Do not** waste everyone’s time when asked to listen.
* **Do not** bring mobile phones or games to Scouts.
* **Do** know and keep your Scout Promise & Scout Law.
* **Do** arrive on time and in full uniform unless told otherwise.
* **Do** treat equipment with respect and care.

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.

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# 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.