

1st Claygate Scout Group



Welcome to Cub Scouts:
**“Make every day an
adventure”**

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1 Introduction from Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

Welcome to Cub Scouting in Claygate. Whether your child is moving up a section from Beavers, is joining us from another Group or is new to Scouting, we believe that the experience of Cub Scouting with 1st Claygate Scout Group will be hugely beneficial and tremendous fun.

In this booklet we tell you about the Cub Scout Section. We mention the other sections but you will receive more information as you move on up through the Group.

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

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people aged 6-25 in the UK (in Claygate 200+ boys and girls benefit). We believe in helping our Members fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We're working to make Scouting as accessible as possible in Claygate and we're passionate about what we do.

Through the adventure of Scouting, young people get to take risks in a safe environment, and have their first taste of responsibility. We give young people experiences they'll never forget.

The sort of adventure Scouting offers is the chance to experience something different and the opportunity to challenge yourself. When a Cub Scout wakes up the morning after her first night under canvas, or a Cub has just got over his fear of heights by completing his first crate stack - that's adventure.

Scouting nationally provides over 200 activities from abseiling to zorbing (that's falling out of the sky in a foam ball in case you were wondering) and we try to give our Claygate members as many experiences as we can. But Scouting isn't just about activities for their own sake: we encourage our young people to feel the buzz of the challenge and then reflect on what that means. Did they have fun? Do they feel more confident? Would they do it again?

All this is made possible in Claygate by the efforts of around 50 voluntary adult leaders. With award-winning training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make best use of their skills and talents. It's something different from the norm, and that's why a lot of people like it. In fact, it's what's made UK Scouting the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.

We hope your child will enjoy the new challenge of being a Cub Scout and will continue through to Scouts and beyond.

Our Group is one of the largest and most successful groups in Surrey and you may also wish to read an accompanying booklet 'About the Group' which describes how the Group is set up and run.

There is a large amount of information about the history of the Group, our policies, the annual calendar of activities and events and opportunities for volunteering on our website, so please use this resource if you would like to find out more: www.claygatescouts.org.

As you may already be aware, 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.

Please complete the Young Person Information form which you should receive with this document, and return it to your child's Akela as soon as possible.

2 About the Cub Scout Section

As you probably know Cubs is the second of the 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 Chimaeras Explorer Scout Unit which is based at the 1st Claygate Scout Centre.

Your child will belong to one of the three packs in the Cub Scout Section of 1st Claygate Scout Group: Lions, Panthers and Lynx. Each pack is led by a Cub Scout Leader (CSL) referred to as **Akela** (the great grey wolf who leads the wolf pack in The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling), assisted by one or more Assistant Cub Scout Leaders (ACSL), each with an appropriate name from The Jungle Book, and one or more helpers (Assistants). Set out below are the details of the meetings of each Cub Pack:

	Lion Pack	Lynx Pack	Panther Pack
Meeting Night	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Regular Pack meeting time	6.45-8.15pm	7.15-8.45pm*	7.15-8.30pm*

Note: * there is a Beaver meeting immediately prior to the pack meetings on these nights, so please wait for that to finish before letting your Cub into the hall. The car park can get very busy around 7pm, so please be patient. On a related note, if you have to park in neighbouring roads at any time please park safely and with regard for our neighbours.

Cubs will bring some information home in paper format, but the main way your section leader will communicate is via email, so please do check this on a regular basis.

All the leaders your child will come into regular contact with during his/her time in Scouting have been through a formal vetting process (DBS Check) 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 concern or query 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 Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader. For matters relating to the support activities of the Group please speak to Stuart Ballard Group Chairman of The Group Executive Committee. All contact details are available on the Group Contact List which accompanies this pack.

Your pack's parent representative will be glad to receive any feedback on any aspect of the Group which may be discussed at the Group Executive Committee. Details are on display on the noticeboard at the Scout Centre or from our Lead Rep whose name is on the Group Contact List.

Don't forget to visit the scout association website at www.scouts.org.uk if you haven't already done so.

2.1 Aims of the Cub Programme

Scouting offers a diverse and exciting selection of activities and experiences that are key to attracting and retaining young people. The Cub programme provides adventure and challenge to young people in an age-appropriate way, helping them with their personal development and to grow their confidence. The programme of activities is planned by each Pack by the leaders in partnership with young people.

The Cub programme is based around three main themes: outdoor and adventure, world and skills. A range of badges and awards are there to support all aspects of Cub Scouting, including the three main themes as well as, leadership, teamwork and personal development. The programme is

delivered in a balanced way that incorporates elements from each theme, to offer young people the most interesting, diverse and high quality experience, enabling every young person the ability to achieve the top Cub award the Chief Scout Silver Award. It is recommended that the Cub programme should spend 50% of the time working on “outdoors and adventure” areas. This does not mean that 50% of the time Cubs will be outdoors, but that the programme has activities with an outdoor and adventure theme; although we believe the more time we can spend outside the better!

The balanced programme is achieved principally by addressing the following areas:

- Adventure Activities
- Outdoor Skills
- Practical Skills
- World Issues (including community and faith)
- Teamwork
- Team Leadership
- Personal Challenges

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

- Games
- Making things
- Visits and Visitors
- Outdoors and camping
- Cooking
- Navigation and orienteering
- Knotting and Pioneering
- Activities with others
- Helping other people
- Themes (e.g. science or astronomy)
- Prayer, worship and reflection
- Team challenges
- Trying new things
- Singing, stories and drama

Please visit <http://www.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12> for full details.

2.2 The Uniform

The Cub Uniform comprises:

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

Beavers joining Cubs will already have a Group scarf. If you are new to the Group, your Group scarf and woggle will be awarded at your child's investiture. Replacements can be obtained from your Akela for a small sum.

Note: the scout shops also sell a green polo style shirt for warmer weather. Although many cubs do buy this as well it is not part of the uniform and there is no requirement to own one. An ordinary T-shirt is just as acceptable to wear under the sweatshirt.

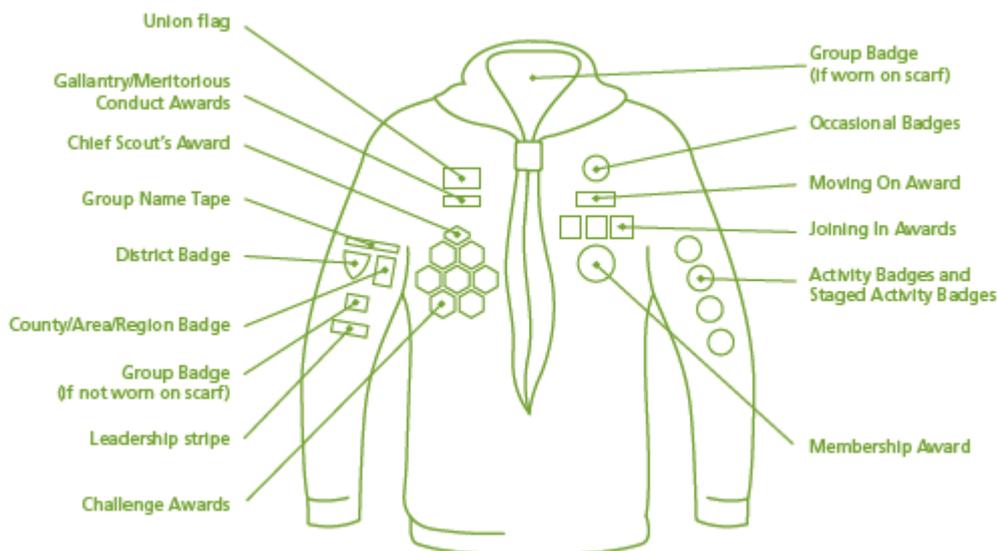
Sweatshirt and trousers, as well as other items such as T-shirts and caps, can be bought from John Lewis. Alternatively items can be ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; <http://www.scoutshops.com>

or from a discount shop in Guildford, details of which can be found at <http://guildfordscoutguideshop.weebly.com/>.

In addition we do have a limited stock of second-hand uniforms. Your child's section leader will be able to show you what we have.

2.3 Badges

During his/her time in the cub pack, your child will be able to work towards a number of badges. The following diagram shows where these need to be positioned on the Cub Uniform. You can find a larger version of this at <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12,67,281>.



A number of badges will be presented at your child's investiture. The main one is the purple Membership Award worn on the front left side on the sweatshirt. The membership badge is worn by all scouts worldwide and the induction programme leading up to investiture provides members with an understanding of the values and benefits of the Scouting Movement which this badge represents.

Worn at the top of the right sleeve of the uniform sweatshirt are two other badges: (i) a green Group Name tape with 1st Claygate in yellow writing and (ii) a single badge combining our County & District badges. We do not have a Group Badge.

The seven Challenge Badges which Cubs may achieve are now blue and hexagon in shape; these are worn on the front right of the uniform. When a Cub has achieved all the requirements for these Challenge awards plus 6 Staged or Activity Badges (see below) she/he will then have achieved the Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest award in Cubs, which is worn above the challenge badges as shown below:



Chief Scout's Silver Award

Our Adventure Challenge Award
Our Outdoors Challenge Award

Team Leader Challenge Award
Personal Challenge Award
Our Skills Challenge Award

Our World Challenge Award
Teamwork Challenge Award

Note: Some of these requirements can only be carried out at a camp, see 2.7 below.

Activity Badges are gained by working individually at home, during meetings and at planned group and district events. All the requirements of the 36 activity badges and 14 staged activity badges (eg nights away, navigation, musician etc.) are described in the Cub Scout Membership Pack which will be given to your child at her/his investiture or can be bought from the same place as the uniform.

Leadership Badges As your child gets older he/she may be asked to become a second (deputy) then sixer (leader) of his/her six. He/she will then receive appropriate leadership stripes to wear below the district/county badge on the right hand sleeve.

Cub Scouts can gain the Joining In/Participation Awards that count the number of years they have been a member of Scouting. Young people can wear the highest badge earned in the previous section (ie Beavers) and add to it each year until they leave Cubs.

Further information on badges and awards is available on the website <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12,67>.

2.4 The Cub Scout Promise, Motto and Law

All cubs learn the values of scouting before their investiture at induction sessions during the first half term when they join the Pack. These are summarised in the Cub Scout Promise, Motto and Law. These are:

The Cub Scout Promise

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 Cub Scout Law

The Cub Scout Motto

Be Prepared

The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best
Think of others before themselves
And do a good turn every day.

Alternative Promise

Scouting is available to people of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and must therefore take account of the different religious obligations or non-religious beliefs of its Members.

Similarly, people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom, who may become Members of the Association, owe allegiance to their own Country.

To meet these circumstances, there are different variations of the Cub Scout Promise that can be made, allowing for the individuals obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise. Please speak to Hugh Gostling the Group Scout Leader or your child's Akela if you would like your child to use a different promise.

2.5 The Investiture

This event usually takes place after your child has been with the pack for half a term. The GSL or one of his deputies will be present at the normal weekly meeting and will ask your child to repeat the words of the promise after him. Your new Cub Scout will then be presented with various items including a certificate, and badges for his uniform. This is an important occasion and parents are invited to attend.

2.6 Going Up Ceremony

If your child has moved section from Beavers to Cubs, he/she will also be invited to a Scouts Own and Going up ceremony. This marks their (and others in the group who are changing section) progression from one section to another. Going Up ceremonies take place either at the Annual Group Camp if moving in summer term, or at the Scout centre usually on a Sunday at breakfast time. See also 3.8 below.

2.7 Camps and Camp Kit List

Your child is now old enough to camp under canvas! He/she will now begin to accrue 'nights away' towards his/her 'Nights Away' Staged Activity Badge. He/she will learn to pitch and strike a tent, keep safe on camp and look after kit, light a fire and to cook various items on the fire (toasted marshmallows and twisters are the most popular). He/she will also gain a repertoire of campfire songs and sketches.

Outdoor adventure is the underlying theme to all the new Challenge badges and no more so in the new "Our Outdoors Challenge Award". Listed in the criteria of this badge, Cubs need to have gained 3 nights away and completed a number of activities while away on camp.

To enable Cubs to gain the Our Outdoors Challenge Award, we have changed the programme of Group Activity Weekend (GAW), usually held in May each year to include all the requirements of this challenge award; therefore, in order to be able to gain the Chief Scout Silver Award, Cubs will need to attend at least one full GAW (camping) at some point during their time in Cubs.

The Group provides all the non-personal camp equipment – tents, groundsheets, cooking utensils, plates, bowls, cups, cutlery etc. At camp the leaders supply, prepare and cook all the food but the children assist with the washing up.

Each camp's kit list will be different but the basic items below will be needed.

- Small Holdall
- Sleeping Bag
- Roll mat
- Torch

Please refer to the kit list provided with 'Notes for Parents' for each camp and if you require advice, your Akela will be pleased to help.

All personal kit MUST be clearly named.

Note: the Group has no Insurance cover for loss or damage to personally-owned equipment, however most 'Household Comprehensive' Policies cover this type of risk so please check yours.

2.8 Moving Up to Scouts

Your child will be eligible to move on to Scouts when he/she is about 10½ years old and will be part of a group of boys and girls who move up at the end of each term. By this time you should have had the chance to see the Troop in action and read about all the exciting challenges they undertake in the Group Newsletter. We hope you will have admired the amazing 'constructions' which are erected to test your child's readiness for Scouts through your attendance at our Scouts Own & Going-Up Ceremonies each term!

2.9 Points of interest

Band: As a cub, your child is now eligible to join the Scout and Guide Band. If he/she is interested in taking up a suitable instrument this is a great way to learn. Contact Robin Wilkinson the Band Leader.

Members of 1st Claygate Scout Group are proud to be able to wear a khaki coloured scarf to show that we were one of the first groups to join the Scouting Movement. The other groups have more colourful scarves but it is worth remembering why we are different.

Members of the Scout Association always shake hands with their left hand. This is a sign of trust which originates from Baden Powell's meeting with Zulu warriors who laid down their shield (held in their left hand) to greet him.

3 About Group and District Activities

This chapter gives a general description of events which you will hear about through your pack. You may already have come across some of them during your child's time as a Beaver. Throughout the year the District organises and puts on various activities specifically for cubs. As with the Group events these may change from year to year so please treat this information as guidance only. The packs also run a number of other events such as sixer and seconder training. A full calendar of events is available on our website – www.claygatescouts.org. You can sign up there to receive updates to the calendar and to see new photos of events. Please also note that you can usually sign up to help at events by completing a shared spreadsheet. This saves the organisers or parent reps from having to twist people's arms!

3.1 District Cub Camp

This is organised by the District and includes cubs from all 10 Groups in Esher District, a total of around 175 young people. It usually takes place in mid-June at a local camp site

3.2 Cross Country Run

This event takes place in February and is organised by the District. It takes place on Oxshott Common. All sections can take part. Each young person participating receives a medal and points for their group.

3.3 Sausage Sizzle

This is held in early October time at The Dittons Headquarters – The Shack at 15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton. There are usually about 50 or so cubs who spend the afternoon playing games and of course cooking sausages on the open fire to eat!

3.4 Badge Afternoon

Usually a Saturday in January, this event is an opportunity to spend the afternoon working with other cubs from the District towards an activity badge such as Road Safety or Communicator.

3.5 Link Events

When your child nears the age of 10½ he/she will begin to think about joining the Scout Troop. The District organises an afternoon of joint Cub & Scout activities at Polyapes, to encourage a smooth transition from the cub pack to the Troop. Activities may include knotting, backwoods cooking, aerial runway and archery.

3.6 Swimming Gala

This event is organised by the Group and usually takes place every 2 years in February or March during the early evening. We are currently reviewing the venue and format of this. The sixes compete for points against each other.

3.7 Group Activity Weekend

Each year during May the whole Group has a weekend camp at either Polyapes (Oxshott), Walton Firs (Cobham) or Bentley Copse (Shere). The cubs have an inter-tent competition with points for tidy tents, good behaviour etc. Parental help is usually needed to put up tents on the Thursday evening before the camp so that the boys can go straight to their tents when they arrive on Friday evening. The Cubs attending will focus on their campcraft skills in order to work towards their Outdoor Challenge Award. There is often a chance to do some specialist activity such as archery.

3.8 Scouts Own/Going-up Ceremonies

These usually take place on a Sunday morning soon after the beginning of each term (Feb, May & Oct). After a short service which is planned by the Group, the Cub Leaders welcome the Beavers joining Cubs and say goodbye to Cubs who are old enough to join the Scout Troop and they carry out some sort of challenge such as swinging on a rope from a frame across an imaginary river to the Scout Leader. This is a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the spiritual element of scouting and to meet other members of the Group. There are sometimes special presentations to be made where for example money has been raised for charity and/or leaders have completed training or reached milestones in their service to scouting.

3.9 Group Summer Fundraiser

This event has changed in format over the years in an attempt to avoid competing with school fetes. It is currently an afternoon of activities organised by each section followed by a barbeque and is an enjoyable and profitable event for the Group.

3.10 Group AGM

As a charity we need to hold an Annual General Meeting to present our accounts to the membership. This usually takes place in June or July and in addition to the short formal business there is a barbeque and awards to leaders and members.

3.11 Annual Awards

The annual awards were introduced in 2000 to reward individuals who have stood out in some way as representatives of scouting. Recipients of awards are chosen by the leaders of each pack. These awards are presented before the summer break usually at the AGM.

3.12 Claygate Flower Show

We always have a pitch at the Village Flower Show in July and any help with this event will be appreciated. The Scout Group is an important part of the community and this is a good forum for showing them what we are about!

3.13 St Georges Day

This takes place towards the end of April and is usually held jointly with Hinchley Wood, Cobham and Oxshott so can be at either one of their village churches as well as our own. We take this as an opportunity for all members of the Scout Association to renew their promise so it is really important for all Cubs to attend. We do all we can to make sure there is something for each section.

The event usually begins with a march through the streets led by our band. Each pack has a flag which will be carried by a representative with two escorts. All members should be well turned out and apologies for non-attendance should be directed to our GSL.

3.14 Remembrance Day Parade

This is similar to St Georges Day but takes place in November and only involves 1st Claygate. We join members of the British Legion and the Guide Movement for a parade from the car park next to Champions in Hare Lane, to Holy Trinity Church. Once again apologies for non-attendance must be sent to our GSL and smart uniform is essential

3.15 Claygate Scout Group Carol Service

This event is organised by the Group on an evening near to Christmas and varies in format and includes music from the Band and is a chance to share mulled wine and mince pies with Scouting friends.

4 Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are levied three times a year on 1st April, 1st September and 1st January. They are calculated on an annual basis and revised annually. You will receive a request for payment in the first weeks of term and will be asked to post monies to our Group Treasurer or use the on-line system which is accessible from our website at http://www.claygatescouts.org/site_map.htm.

The current subscription for Cubs is £135 per annum (£45 per term).

If your son or daughter is a band member an additional subscription of £20 per term is requested to cover the provision of uniform, refreshments and other band expenses.

4.1 Subscriptions – by Gift Aid

Since 1986 we have managed to increase our fundraising by the reclamation of tax on Covenanted Subscriptions. The system was changed and now we wish to collect all subscriptions by Gift Aid. The Scout Group reclaims the tax as a recognised and registered charity in the same way as other well-known charities e.g. Cancer Research. The tax is reclaimed as it has already been paid through the donor's taxed income. This means that for every £1 of subscriptions you pay the Group is able to claim an additional 25p.

This is obviously a very advantageous method of the group increasing its annual income and is put to good use in the equipment and activities that the group provides.

You will be prompted to donate in this way when paying your subscription - please do so if you can.

5 Group Behaviour Policy and Code

This policy was introduced in 2011 and is 'signed up to' by parents and members over 8 years of age by completing the membership form which follows. Please ensure you read this Policy through with your child so that the boundaries of what is and is not acceptable behaviour is absolutely clear.

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.