

# **1st Claygate Scout Group**



## **EXPLORERS**

# **Welcome to Explorer Scouts**

**“Continue the adventure”**

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# 1 Introduction

You are about to join the Explorer Scout Unit which meets at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Group Scout Centre but is run by the District and takes its membership from outside of Claygate.

If you have been a scout with 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate we are glad that you are continuing your association with us. If not, we welcome you and hope you will feel able to join in some of the Group activities which are introduced in this booklet. All booklets, including one about the organisation of the Group, are available on the website [www.claygatescouts.org](http://www.claygatescouts.org).

Although the unit is not formally part of the Group, your parents are still members of the Group Council, which usually meets once a year at the Group AGM. The Group relies on parents for support 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. We hope you will encourage your parents to do something to help in this way. Please complete the Membership Information form at the end of it if you have not already done so, or wish to update information, and return it to your section leader as soon as possible. There is a copy of the form on our website if you need it.

Thank you

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

January 2017

## 2 About Explorer Scouts

Our Explorer Scout Unit is known as the Chimaeras Unit and takes boys and girls from 14 years up and is based at 1st Claygate Scout Centre. It is one of 6 units run by the District and you can belong to the unit until you are 18. At that stage you may continue in Scouting as a member of the Scout Network.

As you probably know, the adults you will come in contact with will 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 they do everything they can to maintain safety.

The unit does not have a grouping system like the preceding sections. Instead it operates through a Unit Executive which is a group of 4 members elected annually by the unit. One of the 4 is elected to be the Unit Chairman and they are responsible for assisting the leaders to run the unit and acting as a go-between. The programme is prepared by the leaders and will include more adventurous and specialised activities than you may have encountered to date. You will be treated more like a young adult and will be expected to behave accordingly.

Explorers often camp abroad and interact more closely and more often with other units. Weekly meetings tend to take place away from base more often than you may have been used to.

Any questions about the unit can be directed to the Explorer Leader, Ed Bowles or to the District representatives. The unit is not formally part of the group but has close

links so please feel free to speak to Hugh Gostling our Group Scout Leader or Stuart Ballard, chairman of our Group Executive if necessary. Contact details are in the Group Contact list issued with this booklet.

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.

## 2.1 Aims of the Explorer Scout Programme

A new programme was introduced in 2015 and it advises that the following Challenge areas are included.

- International Scouting – Scouting is part of a global movement, with over 28 million members worldwide. This challenge area is a chance to explore the world around you, develop your research and presentation skills, or perhaps to prepare for a visit abroad.
- Environment – Whether doing something practical in your local area, raising awareness or finding out about environmental issues and the natural world, this area is an important part of being an Explorer Scout. Topics could include climate change, recycling, deforestation, drought and flood, habitats, wildlife or pollution.
- Culture – The world is full of interesting and different cultures. Find out about and take part in activities from around the UK, and around the World including festivals, traditions, language, clothing, faiths, music, values, or art.
- Visits and Visitors – There are plenty of interesting places to go, and people to invite to visit you – from the police to athletes, businesses to parliament. The programme material for this area includes ideas on the types of visits or visitors you could arrange, and tips on how to go about it.
- Citizenship – Take part in or influence change in your community. You might raise awareness about an issue you feel strongly about, engage with local councillors or MPs, take part in a campaign or work on something to improve your local community.
- Creative – Covering all things creative, including traditional areas such as art or music, new media or entrepreneurial ideas. There are plenty of activities you can do without going anywhere near a paintbrush, a musical instrument or glitter (unless you want to!).
- Communication – It's not just about mobile phones and social networking – Have you ever played 'Giants, Wizards, Elves', put up a tent blindfolded, joined in a debate, lifted a 'helium stick', or written an article for the local paper? This challenge area includes all sorts of fun activities to try with other people.
- Cooking – From cooking an egg in an orange to a banquet over an open fire, decorating cupcakes to learning some staple student recipes, this is an opportunity to learn an important life skill (and enjoy eating the results of your efforts!).
- Health and Fitness – This challenge area covers anything that is about keeping fit, healthy and active. It could include sport, physical fitness, healthy eating, drugs and alcohol awareness, sexual health, first aid, or other healthy lifestyle areas.
- Teambuilding and Leadership – All about developing your teamwork and leadership skills in a fun way. You might want to use this challenge area when

welcoming new members to your Unit, to develop as a small team for a particular event, to give leadership a go or simply to challenge yourself as a group.

- Campcraft – Tents, fires, campsite layout, hygiene, pioneering, gadgets, stoves, axe and saw... it's all in here and helps you become experts in going on camp.
- Survival Skills – Could you survive in the wild without a tent, stove or pre-packed food? Try making a bivouac, foraging for food, lighting a fire without matches, purifying water and a whole host of other survival skills.
- Peer-led Nights Away – If you fancy staying away without your leader, this challenge area will help you with all of the things you will need to plan including: where to go, what to do, getting a Nights Away Passport, transport, equipment, budgeting and fundraising.
- Adventurous Activities – This challenge area is a chance to try some new adventurous activities, or develop skills in something you already love. Whether it's hiking, climbing, paddling, gliding, skiing or shooting there are literally hundreds of activities you could try.
- Navigation – Navigation is all about finding your way around, whether you use a map and compass, GPS, street map, public transport, tracking and trails, the sun or the stars. From skills you could use on an expedition to geo-caching or treasure hunts in your local area, why not give it a go

For more information on the programme go to <http://prepared.scouts.org.uk/explorers/what%E2%80%99s-new> .

## 2.2 The Uniform

The Explorer Scout Uniform comprises:

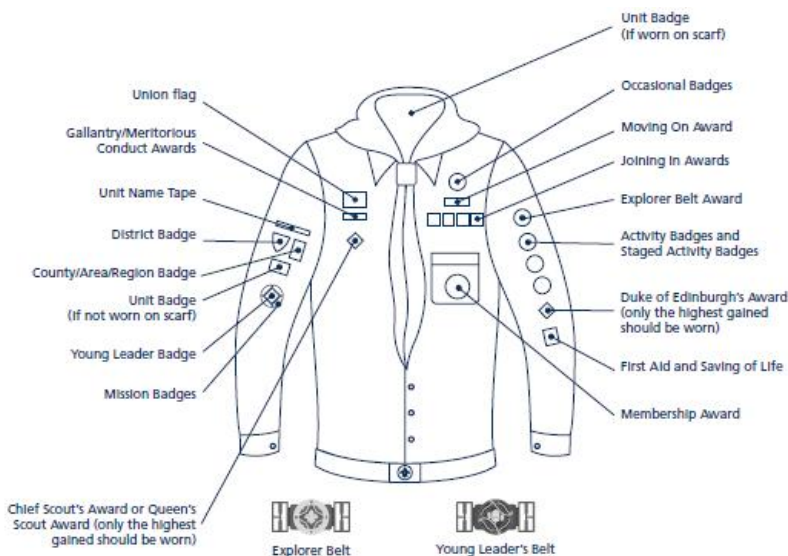
- Beige long sleeve or short sleeve shirt or blouse;
- Explorer Scout Unit scarf which is khaki (like the Groups scarf) but with a blue edging, and woggle;
- Navy blue activity trousers or smart navy blue skirt;
- Scout belt / Explorer Belt and buckle.

Shirt and trousers, as well as other items such as t-shirts and caps, can be obtained from the Walton & Weybridge Scout Shop, 4<sup>th</sup> Walton Headquarters, Cottimore Lane, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2BX. It is open on Mondays from 3.30-5pm and Wednesday from 7-9pm during term time only. Alternatively items can be ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; [www.scoutshops.com](http://www.scoutshops.com).

In addition we do have a limited stock of second-hand uniforms held at HQ. Details of what is available can be obtained from your leader.

## 2.3 Badges & Awards

There are 29 activity badges which can be achieved. The following diagram shows where these need to be positioned on the Scout Uniform. You can find a larger version of this on the UK Scouts website at [https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/000%20PG%20Uniform%20Diagrams%20\(2015\)%20Explorer.pdf](https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/000%20PG%20Uniform%20Diagrams%20(2015)%20Explorer.pdf)



The Membership Award will be presented at your investiture and is worn on the front pocket.

The main awards are The Chief Scout's Diamond Award, The Chief Scout's Platinum Award and the Queens Scout Award. Further information on badges and awards is available on the website at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=9,88>.

## 2.4 The 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

## 2.5 The Motto

Be Prepared

## 2.6 The Law

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

## 2.7 The Investiture

You will be formally invested after a short time with the unit as agreed with the leaders.

## 2.8 Moving on to the Scout Network

At 18 you may be moving away from home and wish to take part in the Scout Network which is run centrally. You will always be welcome back to the Group if you return to Claygate and can eventually join our thriving Service Crew to renew friendships and maybe become Young Leaders.

## 2.9 Points of interest

The Centre has pigeon holes for Scouters which may be used if for any reason you wish to contact another leader. The phone number for our HQ is on the front cover and can be used to contact leaders in an emergency. Our khaki coloured scarf shows 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 District and Group Events

There are a number of annual events which are usually run by the District.

- Cooking Competition
- Volleyball
- Night Hike
- Four Inns Walk (for over 16s) - a 45 mile, 24 hour walk
- Games Evening with other units
- 5-aside Football
- Group Swimming Gala
- Winter Activities Event – walking, caving & climbing

You will always be welcome to camp at the Group Activity Weekend in May and also to take part in the annual St Georges Day Parade and Remembrance Sunday.

If you are an experienced musician you may like to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout and Guide Band. It's a great way of using your own talent to encourage younger members of the Group. Details can be obtained from Robin Wilkinson.

### 3.1 Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are levied three times a year on 1<sup>st</sup> April ,1<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the Subscriptions Co-ordinator or use the on-line system which can be accessed from our website at [http://www.claygatescouts.org/site\\_map.htm](http://www.claygatescouts.org/site_map.htm) or directly from Parentpay at <http://www.parentpayshop.co.uk/schools/Payments/9990014.html>.

The current subscription for Explorer Scouts is : **£135 per annum (£45 per term)**

An additional subscription of £20 per term is requested from band members to cover the provision of uniform, refreshments and other band expenses.