

# **1st Claygate Scout Group**



# **SCOUTS**

## **Welcome to Scouts:**

### **“Life Changing Adventure”**

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# 1 Introduction from your Group Scout Leader

If your child is joining us from another Group or is new to Scouting, we welcome you to 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout Group, one of the largest and most successful groups 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 <http://www.claygatescouts.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 Centre, both in the car park and in neighbouring roads

Due to its size, the Troop is divided into two, meeting at the same time, and is led by a team of leaders, who continue to review and develop the way this section runs so you may find some of the information in this booklet gets quickly out of date! You will be informed of any major changes and can always get the latest copy of this booklet from the website should you need it.

**Although you may have been in the Group for several years, please complete the Young Person Information Form which you should receive with this document, and return it to your child's section leader as soon as possible so we can check our data is up to date.**

Thank you

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

January 2017

## 2 About the Scout Section

As you probably know Scouts is the last of the sections in the group which 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 Claygate Scout Group: Badgers, Cobras, Eagles, Falcons, Kingfishers, Owls, Peewits, Stags, Tigers and Woodpeckers. Due to its size, the Troop is divided into two parts, each made up of 4 patrols. Each "half" has its own set of leaders and follows the same programme, although the activities may be in different weeks. We aim for a joint meeting at least once per term, and all camps and similar activities are also joint. 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.

The Troop meets on Mondays from 7.15 to 9pm. Any changes will be confirmed in Troop Notices and programme details which are distributed regularly.

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 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. Relevant contact details are on a separate sheet accompanying this pack.

The Troop's parent representative (see list on the Group noticeboard) will be glad to receive feedback on any aspect of the group which will be discussed at the leaders committee.

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.

### 2.1 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.

### 2.2 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 updated programme can be found in detail at <http://prepared.scouts.org.uk/scouts/what%E2%80%99s-new> 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.

## 2.3 The 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 acceptable in the short term. 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.)

Shirt and trousers, as well as other items such as T-shirts and caps, can be obtained from John Lewis. 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 including walking boots. Your child's sections leader will be able to show you what we have.

## 2.4 Awards

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.

All Scouts moving to the Troop after January 2015 have to follow the updated programme to achieve their Gold Award, and there are transition arrangements in place between the new and old programmes for those who joined the Troop prior to January 2015.

The Gold Award and Challenge badges are different shapes between the old and updated programme, thus you may see a mixture on uniforms.

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:-

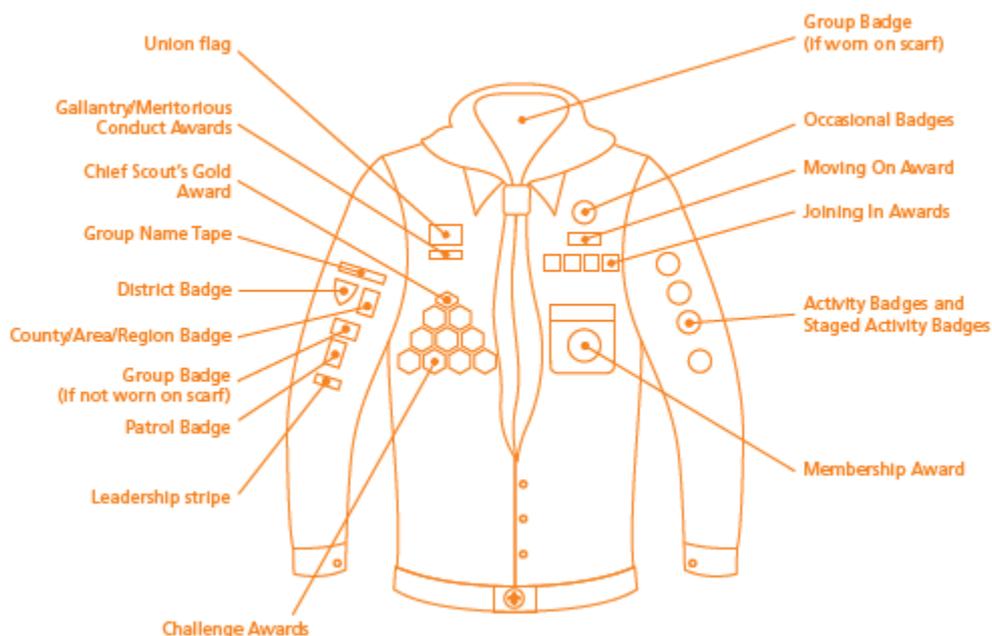
- Pitch, strike and store a tent correctly.
- Prepare, cook, serve and clear away a meal and a hot drink out of doors using an open fire.
- Complete with suitable equipment, a one-day expedition with friends by foot, navigating using map and compass.
- Demonstrate the correct use of six knots, bends 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.

## 2.5 Positioning the Badges

The following diagram shows where badges need to be positioned on the Scout Uniform. You can find this at <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64,176>.



A number of badges will be presented at your child's investiture. The main one is the Membership Award worn on the front pocket. We have a green Group Name Tape with yellow writing – 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate. Our County & District badges are combined into a single badge and we do not have a Group Badge.

Further information on badges and awards is available on the website <http://scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=7,64>.

## 2.6 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

Alternative versions are available where appropriate. If your scout wishes to use one of these please advise prior to investiture.

## 2.7 The Scout Motto

Be Prepared

## 2.8 The Scout Law

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.

## 2.9 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.

## 2.10 Camp Kit List

Your child will now be cooking his/her own food at camp and have more involvement in choosing what he/she does at camp, and to some extent during troop evenings. He/she will now be given the opportunity to attend Summer Camp which is a week long, and will therefore need to think about more serious items such as hiking boots, penknives, water bottle, plates, bowls, cups and cutlery. Optional items are head-torches, compasses and the like but I am sure your child will have his/her own list!

The Group still provides tents, groundsheets and extensive cooking materials (kept in the patrol box).

The following is a suggestion when packing for camp:

Kitbag / Rucksack\* or similar

Daysack

Sleeping Bag\*

Sleeping mat

Torch

Waterproof Outer Garments – Gagoule, waterproof trousers, Gore-Tex\* or similar

Training shoes

Hiking boots\* or strong shoes

Warm Sweater or fleece

T-Shirts

Shorts (it is traditional for scouts to wear shorts when at camp to avoid the bottoms of trousers getting wet in the dewy grass!)

Long trousers not jeans, (denim is not permitted on camp.)

Swimming costume

Night wear

Spare underclothes and socks

Handkerchiefs and tissues

Washing kit and towel

Tea towels (old ones!)

Personal first aid kit – remember the Scout First aid kit cannot carry aspirin, paracetamol etc.

Camp Blanket for camp fires (optional)

\* If you require any advice on these items, your Troop Leader will be pleased to offer help.

Note: the Group has no Insurance cover for loss or damage to personally-owned equipment. Most 'Household Comprehensive' Policies cover this type of risk.

## 2.11 Moving on to Explorer Scouts

Your child will be eligible to move on to Explorer Scouts between the ages of 14 and 15 years old. By this time you should be very familiar with the scout movement and know what to expect. We hope your child will continue to enjoy scouting and maybe consider putting something back into

the Group by becoming a Young Leader. The Explorer Unit draws its membership from a wider community.

## 3 Main Events in the Group Calendar

### 3.1 Scouting Activities

There are a number of activities which are specific to scouts. Scouts are advised during the meeting of upcoming events and are asked to express an interest and a poster advertising the activity is placed on the Troop notice board. E-mail is then used to circulate details to all members of the Troop and to ask for confirmation of the scout's interest. Where participation is limited E-mail is also used to confirm places.

Where letters are issued this may be by e-mail only, or paper and e-mail. Paper copies are always available on request. Letters usually have a tear-off slip where you can indicate whether or not your child will be attending. Please return these as soon as possible as this is a considerable help when planning transport, food and so on. If money is required please can this be returned with the reply slip by cheque unless cash is specifically requested. Payment is also usually possible via the online payment system. Reply slips should also be returned where an online payment option is used.

Older scouts may be involved in organising some activities, (e.g Christmas Post,) and may make telephone calls to other patrol or troop members to achieve this. In this case patrol leaders will be given the home telephone number of the scouts in their patrol, and may be also be given the parent's contact e-mail address.

The Troop has a variety of activities each year and examples of this are set out below:-

PL/APL Weekends	A weekend activity for Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders
Group Activity Weekend (GAW) Camp	A Camp open to all Scouts usually held in May
Sailing	Organised on an occasional basis and can include a weekend camp
Archery	During meetings and camps and possibly via additional Archery sessions.
Canoeing	Courses are run in Kayaking for 1 and 2 Star British Canoe Union Standards and other courses for the more advanced. Letters for the courses are usually sent out around Easter time.
Climbing	We make use of the climbing wall at Chessington Sports Centre.
Orienteering	Usually 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month between September and March, which involves attending Southern Navigators Saturday Series events as part of Esher District Orienteering Club. Transport by minibus usually from Hinchley Wood Scout Centre organised by the District
Training Events	Building the going up ceremony items or additional events arranged as the need arises.
Shooting	This is provided at the scout centre as part of the evening programme usually just prior to the District Shooting Competition. Scouts require a signed "Permission To Shoot" to take part.
Summer Camp	This is the highlight of the year and as far as the leaders are concerned it is what each year's programme should build towards.
Service Projects	Examples are the Christmas Postal Service and taking part in the village Clean-up Day.

### 3.2 Other events

Major annual events are listed in the 'About the Group' Welcome Pack which is available on the website but if you have been with Group for a while, by now you will probably be familiar with most of them.

The Troop takes part in a number of competitions, all of which are recorded in the Troop Log, which contribute points towards the Esher District Top Troop Trophy. Everyone who takes part in individual competitions will be awarded points which count towards the final result.

## 4 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 is accessible from our website at [http://www.claygatescouts.org/site\\_map.htm](http://www.claygatescouts.org/site_map.htm).

The current subscription for Scouts 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 such as 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 for the Group to increase 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 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.