



# Scouts

## 24th Abingdon (Dry Sandford)

6-8 yrs

**BEAVERS**

8-10½

**cubs**

10½-14

**SCOUTS**

14-18

**EXPLORERS**



[24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](http://24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



# Welcome to Scouts!

24th Abingdon (Dry Sandford) is a thriving Scout Group, providing high quality Scouting to young people from Wooton, Dry Sandford and the surrounding area.

Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing. But we also get to hang out with our friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team and taking on new challenges.

## Sections and meeting times

Our sections all meet at the Scout hut, usually during term time only. A meeting programme is published on Online Scout Manager (see page 4).



(Monday, 5:45 pm to 7 pm)

Beavers is for 6 to 8 year olds and is an opportunity to make new friends. Joining Beavers is a great adventure.

We can accept young people from the age of 5 years and 9 months; we won't usually accept new joiners aged over 7 years and 3 months. Beavers can move up to Cubs any time from age 7½ to age 8½ (as agreed with the leaders).

[beavers@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:beavers@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



(Tuesday, 6 pm to 7.30 pm)

Cubs is for 8 to 10 ½ year olds. Joining Cubs is a way to develop new skills and soar to great heights.

We can accept young people from the age of 7 ½ years; we won't usually accept new joiners aged over 9 ½ years. Cubs can move up to Scouts any time from age 10 to age 11 (as agreed with the leaders).

[cubs@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:cubs@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



(Wednesday, 6.30 pm  
to 8.30 pm)

Scouts is for 10 ½ to 14 year olds, with new challenges and new adventures.

We can accept young people from the age of 10 years; we won't usually accept new joiners aged over 13 years. Scouts can move up to Explorers any time from age 13½ to age 14½ (as agreed with the leaders).

[scouts@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:scouts@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



(Thursday, 7.30 pm  
to 9.30 pm)

At Explorers, for 14 to 18 year olds, you'll stand on your own two feet, and make memories. Explorers are a part of the District but we share facilities.

The Explorer Unit can accept young people from the age of 13½ years.

[join@thamesridgescouts.org.uk](mailto:join@thamesridgescouts.org.uk)

## Joining and investiture

When young people first join they can try it out for a few weeks before making any final decisions as to whether it's for them. They won't need to start paying subs immediately and there is no need to get a uniform until they are invested.

The investiture is the special ceremony when they make their promise and become an official member. The first award they receive is their Membership Award, and their section team will have made sure that they've done all the preparation necessary for this. Their investiture will usually take place around four to six weeks after they join. Your section team will let you know when it's happening so that you can watch.



## Programme and badges

All sections run an exciting programme, with a focus on having fun and learning by doing. We take part in a range of activities, both indoors and outdoors. We involve the young people in deciding what they'd like to do and encourage them to take on responsibility and to try out new and exciting challenges.

We offer an extensive badge programme: you name it, we've got a badge for it - over 200 of them across the sections. Scouts work together on badges at their weekly meetings, away at camps and events or at home. Badges are easy to earn and you don't need anyone special to sign them off.

There's never any pressure to do badges. Scouts can do as many or as few as they like. But for those up for a challenge, there are loads of exciting badges to aim for, such as the Chief Scout's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – these are the highest awards that Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can earn. And for those going even further, the Kings's Scout Award is the top achievement for young people in Scouts.



# Staying safe

We want to develop young people's confidence and we know that they thrive in secure surroundings, at home and away. Wherever we go, we're serious about keeping them safe and our Safeguarding and Safety policies support this. More information is available online but here are some key points:

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- All our volunteers have a Welcome Conversation and are asked to provide references. They undergo mandatory training, including basic first aid and child protection. Special training is provided for those taking young people away on residential events like camps and sleepovers.
- Everyone who helps out regularly, stays overnight or otherwise has unsupervised access to young people has to undertake a disclosure check (also known as a 'police check'). The Scout DBS checks are enhanced checks with a more extensive search than many other organisations complete, meaning that we do not accept checks carried out elsewhere.
- We have a clear code of behaviour we expect everyone to abide by, known as the 'Yellow Card'. This code is shared with all adults who interact with young people – regardless of their role – and is included in the training that our volunteers receive.
- If you're unhappy with anything relating to your child's time in Scouts, please raise it immediately with us, no matter how trivial it may seem. If you'd rather speak to someone else, contact the Scout Information Centre on 0345 300 1818.



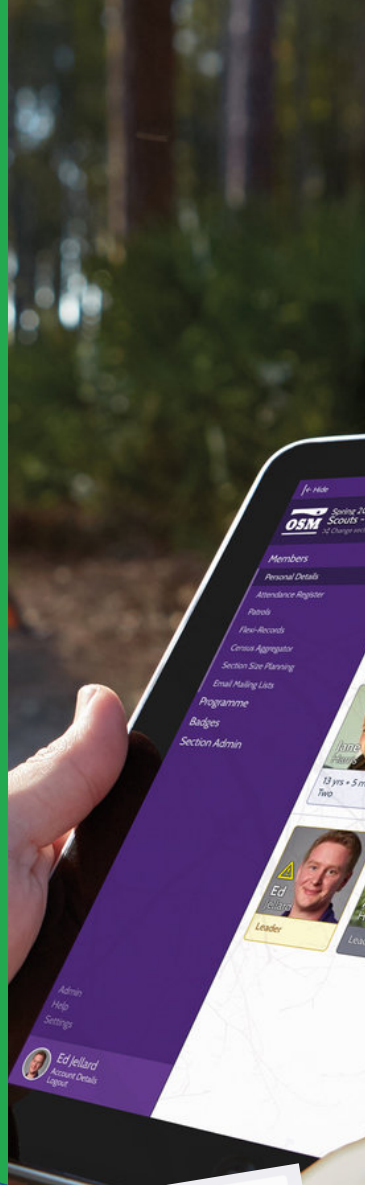


# Staying in touch

We use a system called Online Scout Manager (OSM). This is a fantastic tool, developed by a Scout volunteer, which allows us to do all of our administration in one central system, giving parents access to the bits that they need to see.

You will be sent an invitation to login to the Parent Portal. You can use this on a phone or a computer and you can use it to:

- View the programme and sign up to the parent rota
- Sign up for events and download information (e.g. kit lists for camps)
- See your child's badge progress, check where badges need to be sewn on, and upload evidence of badge work completed at home
- Review the contact information and other data we hold and keep this up to date
- Pay subs and pay for events (you will be invited to set up Direct Debits for this) and register for gift aid



# Money matters

## Subs

Subs are £17.50 per month (£192.50 per year), payable monthly from September to July. We have around 38 meetings per year, so this works out at around £5 per meeting. It covers membership to the Scout Association, plus attendance and resources at meetings, and all achievement badges awarded. There is a small joining fee to cover the cost of the Group scarf, woggle, badges and other items received by new starters. Your section team will confirm how much this is.

## Other costs

Other costs include the following:

**Uniform:** around £15-£20 new for the essentials (we may have some second hand uniform available in return for a donation). See page 7 for more information about uniform.

**Camps and sleepovers:** the price varies depending on where we stay, what we do and how long the camp lasts; for example a one night camp at the Scout hut would be around £25-£35; two nights at Youlbury will be around £70; a week long summer camp around £450.

**Outings and events:** an additional charge will be made for trips out and events – for example, we may do a Christmas outing to ice skating or an activity day at Youlbury. These will be charged at, or lower than, cost (the Group subsidises some activities).





Sign up to raise funds for the Group whenever you shop with one of their 4,000+ partners



Buy tickets for just £1 to enter this lottery - 50% of what you spend on tickets comes to the Group



## How to pay

Payments should be made through OSM. You will be notified by email when a payment is due and you can either pay as a one-off or you can set up Direct Debits so that payments are simply taken when due (though you will always be notified before a payment is taken).

Any Direct Debits will automatically be cancelled when your young person leaves the section, so you will need to set up new ones for the next section, but this ensures that you're not charged for anything once they have moved on.

If you have any problems with using the payment system please contact the Group Treasurer at [treasurer@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:treasurer@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com).

## Access fund

We believe that all young people should be able to participate fully in Scouting activities. If you're unable (for any reason) to afford subs, camps or any other activities we offer, please just let us know as the Group Trustee Board maintains an access fund to subsidise/cover expenses as needed. Please contact your section team lead volunteer in the first instance.



# Uniform

Uniform can be purchased from Topsport in Abingdon or online from various places as listed. We also try to maintain a stock of second-hand uniform which is available in return for a donation to the Group of whatever you can afford. Please speak to your section team to find out what is available.

## What you need

The lists below tell you the essential uniform items (what you need before your child is invested) and the optional uniform items (not required but some people get them). Prices quoted are for new items purchased through the Scout Shop. There is also other casual clothing available, including hoodies, T-Shirts and caps, which can be worn on camps and other less formal occasions – however, none of this is required.

*Note that you do not need to purchase a scarf/necker, a woggle or any badges: these will be supplied when your young person is invested.*

## ALL SECTIONS

**Optional:** Navy Scouts Activity Trousers (around £18 for kid sizes and £30 for adult sizes – but any navy or black trousers are fine)

**Optional:** Navy Scouts Activity Shorts (around £14 for kid sizes and £24 for adult sizes – good in the summer but any navy or black shorts are fine)

### BEAVERS

#### Essential:

Blue Uniform  
Sweatshirt  
(around £18)

**Optional:** Blue Polo Shirt (around £15 – good to wear under the sweatshirt, or on its own in the summer)

### cubs

#### Essential:

Green Uniform  
Sweatshirt  
(around £18)

**Optional:** Green Polo Shirt (around £15 – good to wear under the sweatshirt, or on its own in the summer)

### SCOUTS

#### Essential:

Green Uniform  
Shirt or Blouse  
(around £25)

**Optional:** Scout belt (around £20 - looks very smart for more formal occasions)

### EXPLORERS

#### Essential:

Beige Uniform  
Shirt or Blouse  
(around £25)

**Optional:** Scout belt (around £20 - looks very smart for more formal occasions)

# Where to buy



**topsport**

48 Wootton Rd  
Abingdon

01235 521405

scan me

<http://topsportuk.com/>



**Scout Store** 

The official store of Scouts  
- uniforms,  
badges and gifts

scan me

<https://shop.scouts.org.uk/uniforms>



**One Stop Scouting** 

All your Scouting needs in one place - great for fun clothing and badges

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<https://www.onestopscouting.co.uk/scout-uniform>

You can also find uniform on Amazon and eBay – just search for what you need.



## Group branded clothing



We have Group t-shirts and hoodies available to purchase. These are purple, with our Group logo printed on - this is large on the front of the t-shirt and the back of the hoodie. We have popular sizes in stock and also order more from the supplier when we have sufficient demand - we'll let you know when there's an order coming up. T-shirts can be worn under uniform jumpers and shirts, or on their own during warmer weather; hoodies are ideal for camps and outings.



Place your order here - order any time and we will place a batch order with the supplier when we have enough  
<https://24th-abingdon-scout-group.sumupstore.com/>  
(or scan the QR code)

# Getting involved

All our adults are volunteers who give their time freely to help young people thrive. Some volunteers lead their section week in and week out. Others call in occasionally to share a specific skill, or provide an extra pair of hands.

However, there are never enough of us, so it would great to get you involved! Loads of adults in Scouting started out as parents, volunteered for an evening and found that they loved it, so we hope that you'll do the same.

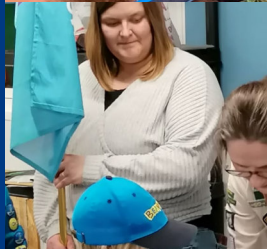
We have volunteering opportunities to suit everyone, whether for a couple of hours a year to help with fundraising, a few hours a month on the Group Trustee Board or an hour or two a week at sections meetings. You don't need any prior experience of Scouting and – for those roles that require it – free training is provided.

## Board of Trustees

We couldn't operate without our Board of Trustees. They look after our site and building, manage the money, make sure that we're properly insured and oversee the running of things. They meet once or twice each term and also run the Annual General Meeting (AGM), usually at the start of the autumn term.

Members include the Group Leader Volunteer, (GLV) the officers (Chair and Treasurer), the lead volunteers for each section and parents. The **Chair** leads the meetings, ensures all trustees understand their duties, and works with the GLV to develop Scouting in the Group. The **Treasurer** looks after financial matters, including the Group accounts. We also have a **Secretary** who is not a trustee but who maintains records and prepares agendas and minutes.

To find out more please contact the Chair at [chair@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:chair@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



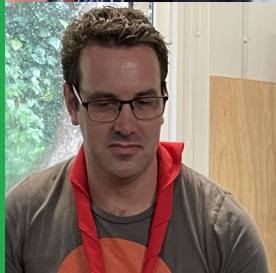


## Section teams

We have a core team of lead volunteers who attend section meetings and keep things running. They take the lead on planning meetings, camps and events and are offered full training to support them in their role.

Each sections lead volunteer is supported by several team members. The team members plan some of the meetings and help run activities. Some come every week while others help out when they can.

If you'd like to get involved with helping out at meetings, camps or events please speak to the lead volunteer for your section or contact the Group Lead Volunteer at [glv@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:glv@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



## Fundraising

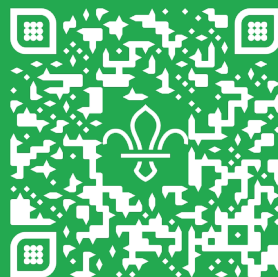
Fundraising activities are essential for keeping costs down and keeping the building running. Whilst our Board of Trustees takes overall responsibility for fundraising they can only do it with the support of a team of parents. Fundraising activity includes everything from spending an hour running a stall at a local event, to organising a sponsored hike, to running a community event, to researching and submitting grant proposals: whatever time you can give will make a difference.

If you'd be able to get involved please contact the Chair at [chair@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](mailto:chair@24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)

# Our site and buildings

We are fortunate to own our own site. We have a spacious building with large and small meeting rooms, a large indoor storage space, toilets and a fully fitted teaching kitchen. Outdoors is our camping field, with a separate toilet and shower block, washing up facilities, a huge campfire circle and our very own woodland to explore, with plenty of opportunities to get wet and muddy!

[24thabingdonscoutgroup.com](http://24thabingdonscoutgroup.com)



Scan me for more information

## Booking information

We hire out our site, buildings and activities as one of the main ways of raising funds for the Group. If you're interested in booking, whether to use the hall for a birthday party or to make a weekend of it with friends, please visit our website for more information (scan the QR code above).

Our facilities include the following, which can be booked together or separately:

- **Main hall** (10m x 10m) – includes use of indoor toilets; room has ten folding benches, eight folding tables and 30 folding chairs
- **Meeting room** (6m x 9m) – includes use of indoor toilets; room has ten folding benches, four fixed tables, five padded chairs, a selection of beanbags and several whiteboards
- **Kitchen** – includes access to indoor toilets; includes a large fridge and freezer, double sink, three ovens, microwave, toaster, kettles, plus use of basic cooking equipment and crockery and cutlery
- **Large camping field** (approximately 30m x 80m) – includes use of toilet block with showers, outdoor washing up facilities, camp fire circle with tiered seating, flagpole and woodland with stream (outdoor cooking/BBQs are welcome)

Full details of pricing are available on the website but prices range from £2.50 per person for a half-day Scout visit up to £600 for exclusive non-Scouting use of the site from Monday to Friday in the school holidays.