
Parent's Guide to Scouting

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About

This Parents Guide will hopefully give an insight into what Scouting is all about. It will cover a wide variety of things from Your Young Persons Journey through Scouting, to the fun stuff they can get up to, as well as the things we expect and that you can expect from us.

About the Group

As a New Scouter you will need to know about the Group, so you can understand where you and your Young Person will fit in.

About us

1st Howden-le-Wear Scouts is a well establish group with a fantastic team of Volunteers that work together to provide skill for life to young people aged 6-8 (Beavers), 8-10 ½ (Cubs) and 10 ½-14 (Scouts), we also have Explorers (14-18) come to help us out too.

We strive for greatness!

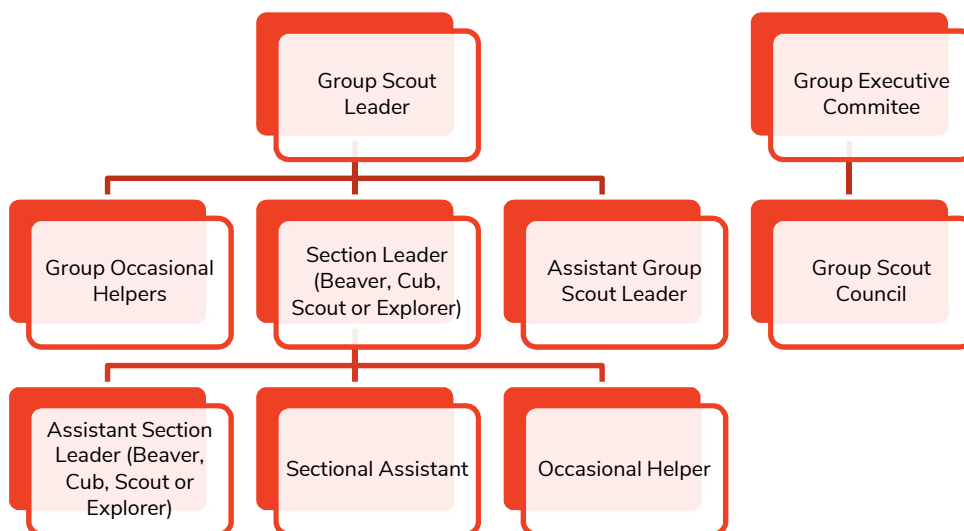
We are always looking at ways we can improve and deliver the best quality programme and opportunities for our Young People and our Volunteers. Every one of our members has the chance to gain new skills and to improve on those they already have.

Section Meeting Times

We meet on a **Thursday Night** during the School Term, so if the schools are open then we are on.

Section	Meeting Time
BEAVERS	5pm – 6pm
cubs	6pm – 7.30pm
SCOUTS	7.30pm – 9pm

Structure



A Scouters Journey

Being new to Scouting can be a little scary at first, but don't worry, everyone in Scouting is there to have fun, meet new people and gain those all-important Skills for Life.

Your Journey Starts here!

The Section for you

The age that a Young Person joins us will be the biggest deciding factor for which section they will be in.

Beavers – 6 – 8 Years Old

Cubs – 8- 10 ½ Years Old

Scouts – 10 ½ – 14 Years Olds

However, this is not completely set in stone as we do have a bit of wiggle room, half a year at either side of the moving on age, so for example if you have a Young Person at 7 ½ Years then we can accept them into the Cubs, or those that are 10 could move up to or join Scouts if they feel ready and their Leader agrees.

Prepare for Nights Away

Obviously, a big part of the Scouts is taking part in Nights Away, this could be anything from a Sleepover in one of the Scout Huts or to a big County Event like Confido, either way they are a lot of fun and are a great way to complete badges.

To prepare for these nights away you will need to do a couple of things;

1. Don't be nervous, be Excited!
2. Start acquiring some Essential overnight Item

We know it is easier said than done but if you are nervous then it can make being away from home that little bit harder for our Young People, but if you are super excited like the rest of us, it can be contagious, and you will find the nights away are a little easier for our Young People and you as parents.

Also, being well prepared is a great way to put your mind at rest. There is a Generic Kit List at the back of this pack that can help, however, you may not need everything on that list for every Camp or sleepover, but it is a good way to make sure you are prepared. When we send out Joining information for our nights away it will include a Specific Kit List for that event so you only pack what is needed.

Activities and Awards

The Scouts recognise achievement in the form of badges, but to earn badges our Young People need to take part in activities and complete several requirements to gain a badge.

There are a lot of activities during the programme to take part in, a lot of these are at meeting nights, but some are put on outside of the weekly meetings. All the activities that we put on help to complete badges, some even complete a whole badge just by taking part.

Camps often have their own badge too!

To top it all off once your Scouter has achieved all the Challenge Badges and several Activity Badges, then they are put forward to receive the Chief Scouts Award for that Section. This is the highest award they can get from completing badges and is awarded at the County Awards Ceremony. This is an amazing event, and should you get the chance to go, it is well worth it.

Moving On

When one of our Members nears the upper age limit of their section we will start to look at the Moving On process for them. Moving On can be daunting for our Young People as they are possibly moving up without friends they have made in their current section and are unsure what to expect in their new section.

Our process for moving on is relatively simple, when they are starting to reach the age of moving on then the Section Leader will have a chat with the Young Person to see how they feel and will also have a chat with parents too, to discuss the moving on process and what they feel would make moving on as easy as possible for Our Scouter.

Moving on often entails a cross over period of half a term to give our young people a chance to see what it is like in their new section as well as having the comfort of attending their old section for a little longer. This also give them a chance to complete their Moving On and Membership Badges which they will be awarded in their new section. After they have settled in, or they say they are ready then they will stop attending the old section and finally be a full member of the next section.

Skills for Life

All of Scouting is about preparing young people with skills for life.

As they continue on their Scouting Journey, they may leave us and move on to something new, or they may even stay with us and become Volunteers or even Leaders, but all we can ask is that they take what they have learnt in Scouting with them.

Getting Started

So now you know what the Journey of a Scout entails, what do you need to do to get started?

Communication

As a new starter in Scouting it is important to establish good communication with your Section Leaders and the Group Scout Leader. Good communication is essential so that you know what is happening through out your Young Persons Journey through Scouting.

We use a system called Online Scout Manager (OSM) that allows us to send out information about Camps and other events that may be of interest to you. Using this system you can also consent to your young person taking part in events (With some exceptions) and also pay for the events too.

E-mails are also a regular method of communication for our Group and an E-mail address will enable us to set up OSM so you can sign in and see what is happening. This will be collected on our New Joiners Form.

Don't worry if you haven't got an e-mail address, we will send out letters to those without e-mail so that everyone gets to know what is happening.

There are a number of other things that come out to keep you up to date with what is or has been happening, such as, Summer Update Packs and Newsletters. Keep an eye on the Website and Facebook Pages too for updates

Website: 1sthowdenlewear.org.uk

Facebook: [@1sthowdenlewearcubscouts](https://www.facebook.com/@1sthowdenlewearcubscouts)

New Joiner Information & Gift Aid Forms

Our New Joiners Personal Information and Gift Aid Forms that need to be filled in are at the back of this pack.

The Personal Details form is pretty straight forward, it asks for the Details we need to set up OSM, what extra information you would like to receive from us and how we can use photos/videos of your young person. Once we have this information we can send you a link Via OSM so that you can fill in the rest of the details we need to ensure your Young Person safety during Scouting activities. Again, if you do not have an E-mail address to access OSM then we do have a way for you to give us this information but you will need to fill in an additional form.

If you do not fill in the information on OSM (or by form, if you do not have an E-mail address) then we may refuse to take your young person on activities due to not having the relevant information to keep them safe.

Subscription Fees (Subs)

Subs for our Group are paid over 10 Months, September to June, at £10 per month.

Subs cover a number of things while your Young Person is with us, the main one being Capitation Fees that we pay Scout HQ each year for all of our Young People that includes Insurances for Scouting Activities. They also cover equipment and materials for the programme as well as badges they are awarded while they are with us.

If we did not have Subs coming in, then we would not be able to offer the programme of activities that we do. We offer a range of ways you can pay Subs, through; OSM, Standing Order, or Cash. It is totally up to you how you pay but should you miss 3 Months of payments, then unfortunately we will not be able to let your young person attend activities outside of the meeting place.

We also understand that some families may struggle to meet these payments due to personal circumstances, so we do have ways we help to reduce the stress and worry of paying Subscription Fees:

- Discounts for Family Scouting – We operate a system of discounts depending on how many siblings (Brothers and Sisters) there are in Scouting, if there are 2 Siblings we offer 20% discount while both are in Scouts, or 30% if there are 3 or more.
- Financial Support – We also set aside a small amount of fundraising money and Subs that goes towards helping those with financial difficulties cover the cost of Scouting. Should you be in a position that you need to access this financial support for any reason then speak to one of our leaders, you will need to fill in a quick application form and a group of three Leaders (no more, no less) will allocate funds based on what you have asked for and why, taking in to consideration the outcome of any previous applications. This is all done in the strictest of confidence with applicants remaining anonymous during the decision-making process to help Leaders make a fair decision.

Uniform and Getting Invested

As a uniformed organisation we expect our young people and volunteers to wear a uniform.

We like to give our Young People time to settle in before ordering a uniform. These are paid for by parents so it is up to you whether you purchase your own Via the Scout Shop Website or by popping in to your Local Scout Shop, or you can order it through the Scout Group. Either way the price should be the same (Websites might differ) as we get ours from the Durham Scout Shop at Moor House.

Once you have the uniform all that is left is to get invested. When a Young person joins us the first Badge that they work on is their Membership Badge, this should take a few weeks to teach our Young People about Scouting, where it started and Our Group and District Scouting. Once they have completed this they will get Invested into the Scout Group, usually at one of our Awards Nights, where we invite all our parents along to celebrate the terms achievements with us.

The Funs Stuff

Bring on the fun and adventure!

The Programme

Our Programme is filled with loads of different activities to help our young people gain badges and hopefully achieve their Chief Scouts Award. We are always working on new and exciting challenges for our members to make earning badges fun and rewarding.

There are so many different skills for life for our young people to develop over our programme from Creative Skills, to Practical Skills and even Survival Skills. Not everyone will like the same thing but there is something for everyone in our Programmes as we endeavour to make them as youth shaped as possible.

Camping

As we mentioned before Camping is a big part of Scouting and we always have opportunities for our Young People to take part in Nights Away Experiences.

We not only have Group Nights Away but we also connect with other Group to run bigger Camps, sometimes we have District Camps consisting of all 5 Groups. We also take part in massive County Camps that cater for over 1200 Young People.

Camping is also the only way to complete some of our badges, like our Outdoor Challenge Badges and Campers and Survival Skills Activity Badges, so don't miss out. We open up these opportunities as early as we can, but this can sometime be only a couple of weeks before we have to give numbers and book in, so make sure you get in before the deadline or you may have to wait until next time.

You can confirm you are going on OSM, or if you do not have access we will have consent forms too. County also require one of their Medical form filling in for their events, but you will be made aware if something is a County Event.

Activity Days

Sometimes we put on a days' worth of activities on instead of a camp, again these usually go towards badges so you will want to be there.

You can book on to these events the same as you do for camping.

Fundraising Events

We do fundraising events fairly regularly to help bolster the Group Funds, to put towards a specific goal or target or for another Charity.

Almost all of our Fundraising Events are family friendly and are open to the public, so if you see we are having an event, pass it on, let people know and bring along all your friends and family to enjoy the fun.

We advertise most of our Fundraisers on our Facebook page and Website, so if you can't make it, you can still keep up to date with what we are doing and help us spread the word by sharing it with your friends.

Awards Nights

These are what we look forward to at the end of each term, our Awards Nights are open to Parent and anyone that you might want to bring along, as we celebrate the achievements of our Young People and award them the Badges they have completed that term.

What We Expect

To be able to provide the programme and opportunities that we do, we expect a little help from our Young People and Parents.

Attendance

Good attendance by our young people at meeting nights and events makes it easier for us to plan activities that will get them badges. It shows a commitment and respect for what we do and shows Our Leaders that you appreciate the hard work they put in, giving up their free time to provide these opportunities.

If you don't turn up regularly to meeting nights and events then you may miss some important parts of your badge work, and if you miss a few then you may end up with little or no badges to be awarded with at Awards Nights.

If you miss a half term of meeting nights without letting us know why then we will have to assume you are no longer coming to Scouts and will remove you as a member from our records.

Behaviour

Good behaviour is expected during Scouting Activities no matter where they are or what you are doing.

We need to be able to trust our members and to know that they will follow instructions and behave in an acceptable manner while we are out and about, taking part in activities or at camps or other events. If we cannot be sure this will happen then we may decide not to take the young person due to possible safety concerns.

A lot of the activities we offer can be very dangerous and even fatal if someone misbehaves, so we have a strict Behaviour Management Policy that we follow should we feel it necessary to do so. A copy of this can found on the Website or you can speak to one of our Leaders who will be able get you a copy.

Support & Communication

Organising everything we do is not easy, especially as we are all volunteers and have lives to live outside of Scouting.

All we ask is that you support us where you can, by helping your young people understand what is expected of them while at Scouts, supporting us at events by popping along or helping out, or just by communicating with us and letting us know how we can help or make things better. The support we get from parents make a world of difference to how well our Scout Group runs. A good turnout at an event can give our Leaders more enthusiasm to plan more of them. A thank you at the end of a Meeting Night can make even a hard and stressful week seem that little bit easier. It is with your support and the joy we see on our Young Peoples faces that keeps us going.

Also, as a parent in Scouting you are automatically part of the Group Scout Council, which give you the opportunity to have your say and to vote on the Members of the Group Executive Committee

What You Can Expect

Its isn't all about what we want though, it is about what we will do for you.

Programme

We will try our best to make sure that each week we have something planned for our young people. Our Leaders will make the programme as balanced as possible with quality activities for our member to take part in and to gain badges all with an aim to get our Young People their Chief Scouts Award.

Behaviour

Our Volunteers will set an example for our Young People, they will be enthusiastic, committed and respectful. They will uphold Scouting values and provide guidance to our Young People so that they can do the same.

We will provide a safe environment for our Young People to grow and Develop and we will stop any behaviour from continuing should it have a negative effect on this effort by following our Behaviour Management policy.

We will also Lead by example too, we will be enthusiastic, cheerful, and fun loving, as we all should be in Scouting. If we expect our Young People to enjoy it as much as we do, then we will show it as fun and excitement is contagious.

Support & Communication

We will provide support to help you through Scouting, providing you with expert knowledge of all thing Scout related, including Camp and Sleepover preparations and Moving On support.

We will do our best to answer any questions you may have and try to improve things that you think could be made better, there is always an open line of communication be it via E-mail, Facebook, Phone Calls, Text messages, and more.

If you are worried about anything, a young person's first night away from home for example, we are here to listen and help you as best we can.

Just like we need you to support us, you may need us to support you too.

Volunteers

None of this would be possible without our fantastic Volunteers.

They give up their time for free to provide amazing opportunities and skills for life to our young people.

If you think you could do the same, even just an hour a month or the occasional weekend, we have a role to suit everyone, speak to one of our Leaders for more information.

Thank You!

Nights Away Kit List

All young people will need to bring their personal equipment and should be encouraged to pack themselves. This list is only a guide.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf, hat and gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm sweaters, jumpers or sweatshirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat, sun cream and sun glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts or similar | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag (3 Season Recommended) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trousers or shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Foam roll / karrimat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare underclothes (one pair per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plate, bowl, mug and cutlery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare socks (one pair per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nightwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Torch and spare batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike boots or strong shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof (coat and trousers) | <input type="checkbox"/> Day sack and plastic drinks bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear and towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Polythene bags (for dirty clothes) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hankies | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Teddy! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal washing requirements and towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Blanket! |

- It is best to pack a rucksack or sports bag that you can carry on your back. Suitcases are not suitable for tents.
- All items should be clearly labelled with the young person's name.

Highlighted Items should be classed as essential as they will be required at most Nights Away Events

P.S.- Yes, Camp Teddys are essential as Camp Teddies are cool!

Personal Details



To ensure that your child can take part in scouting safely, please provide the details below are correct and sign where necessary. The information you supply will be held in accordance with our Privacy Policy and only used for Scouting purposes until the Young Person leaves at which point it will be destroyed/deleted from our records.

Young Persons Information and Communication

Full Name of Scouter: _____ D.O.B: _____

Parents E-mail Address: _____

We use a third-party system called Online Scout Manager (OSM) to store Personal Information and to keep track of badge work and attendance during your Young Persons membership at our Group. We will use the above information to set up an account on OSM and send you e-mails which will allow you to log in and update your personal information as well as consent to upcoming events planned by Our Leaders. We will use your E-mail (directly/ via OSM) as our primary method of updating you about our programme, events and any other information deemed necessary for the safety and engagement of your young person within our group.

Please tick the boxes below if you would like us to e-mail you about any of the additional information:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes to the Scout Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Group Scout Council/ Executive Committee Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Development Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters |

Scouting Publicity

Sometimes photos and video images of Young People taking part in activities are taken for publicity purposes, we will only use these in the way you have consented below and in accordance with The Scout Association Guidelines, however we can not take responsibility for picture taken by District, County, Parents or members of the public.

Local Newspapers

Yes No

Group, District or County Newsletters

Yes No

Local Scouting Displays

Yes No

Group, District or County Social Media & Websites

Yes No

General Medical Consent

If it becomes necessary for your son/daughter to receive medical treatment and you cannot be contacted by telephone or any other means to authorise this, do you give general consent to any necessary medical treatment and authorise the Group Scout Leader (or in their absence a delegated Leader), to pass on relevant information and sign any document required by the hospital authorities. *

Yes No

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* The medical profession takes the view that a parent's consent to medical treatment cannot be delegated. This view is explicit in the Children Act 1989. Thus medical consent forms have no legal status and a doctor / nurse insisting on the consent of a parent to a particular treatment has the right to do so. At the same time it can be a comfort to medical staff to have general consent in advance from parents or to have a Leader on hand able to sign forms required by the medical authorities.

Gift Aid Declaration



Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. The details you provide below will be used by 1st Howden-le-Wear Scout Group to claim Gift Aid on your donation and is needed by HMRC to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to **1st Howden-le-Wear Scout Group**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title: _____

First name or initial(s): _____

Surname: _____

Full Home address:

Postcode: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

This information is kept for up to 7 Years after the end of the accounting year in which the last Gift Aid Claim was made, this is due to legal obligation to keep tax records for this long.