

February 2017

Sevenoaks Newslink

A Monthly Magazine for Leaders and Supporters of Scouting in Sevenoaks



SPECIAL PARENT AND LEADER EDITION

Usually Newslink tries to contain stories from around the Sevenoaks District that leaders have sent in or District events from the various sections. This month the newsletter is dedicated to informing everyone, especially parents, about things you may not be aware of in our District and possible ways that you could help.

Keep reading and you will see adverts for specific jobs and other things you could get involved in.

You will see information that may interest you if your child is about to move on to a new section and maybe learn something's that you didn't know about our organisation

Sevenoaks District comprises of 11 groups, one group, the 1st, is situated in Sevenoaks Town the other 10 are in villages and towns around Sevenoaks District.

The group names and where these are situated can be found with other information on the Sevenoaks Scouts website www.sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Two other websites that may be of interest are

Kent Scouts www.kentscouts.org.uk

This is our County site and contains lots of information about what is going on in Kent.

It is particularly useful for the older sections as it contains information about activities being offered through the various County Teams where the scouts/explorers can go along and join in on their own or in small groups when their own scout leader is not available. Of course this vastly increases the amount of activities that the more senior scouts can take part in and get the benefit of.

National Scout Site www.Scouts.org.uk

This is the main site for Scouting and although some of the site is for leaders only there is a vast amount of information here.

This is where you can visit to find out 'where does this badge go' or 'What do I have to do to get the 'Something or other badge'

With a bit of practice navigating the site pretty much anything can be found here.

New District Commissioner

At this moment in time Sevenoaks is going through the procedure of choosing a new District Commissioner and hopefully that person will be in place by the Spring. In the meantime, Hugh Field and Caroline O'Mahony are taking care of the everyday running of the District and keeping us all on track.

How you can Help

As a parent dropping off and picking up your scout you probably see the same adult faces each week and not really give much thought about how we go about the whole business of scouting.

Behind the scenes there are many people taking care of the business side of things, each Group has an Executive Committee and the District has a District Executive Committee responsible for all things non-uniform. Some leaders sit on these committees to make the numbers up but practically every scout Group wants and needs people at their meetings to spread the load. There are more ways to help outside of Executive meetings.

A couple of specific ways you can help are on the next pages

VACANCY: District Treasurer

Sevenoaks Scout District are seeking a volunteer for this role and work with the District Chairperson to ensure the effective financial administration of Sevenoaks Scout District as set out in the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The District Treasurer is responsible to provide sound financial administrative support and information to Sevenoaks Scout District with direct responsibility to the District Chairperson. In addition, their main contacts are members of Sevenoaks District Executive, Kent County Treasurer, Group Treasurers, District Scouters and District Commissioner.

Key Duties (negotiable):

- Treasurer to the District Scout Council;
- Treasurer to the District Executive Committee;
- Work closely with and support the District Chairperson maintaining effective communication;
- Set the Annual Budget for the Scout District;
- Work with Group Treasurers and ensure the completion of the District Annual accounts including the receipt and monitoring of financial statements of each Scout Group;
- Ensure the completion of the District Annual accounts in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Charities Commission;
- Maintain such records and lists of members and associate members for the efficient administration of the Scout District;
- Maintain effective communication with the District Chairman and other members of the Executive Committee;
- Be a full and active member of the District Executive Committee;
- Receive all monies on behalf of the District, to keep account of all funds and to pay out on authorisation of the District Executive Committee;
- Provide sound administration in respect of the obligations according to POR;
- Maintain effective communication with the County Treasurer;
- Receive Group membership subscriptions and forward them to the County Treasurer;
- Work with the County Executive Committee to attract funding / grants / income to the County;

Appointment Requirements:

To understand and accept The Scout Association's policies, have a satisfactory DBS and to complete the appropriate training modules as outlined in The Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme and the Adult's Personal File.

To speak to someone about this role please contact:

The District Chairman, Andrew Holland

thehollands1@btinternet.com

The District Secretary, Jeanette Schwarz

districtsecretary@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Deputy District Commissioner

dc@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Scout Shop Vacancies

There are vacancies to serve in the Scout Shop on some Saturday Mornings between 10am and 12 noon

From January 2017, the Shop will open on 2 Saturdays a month but we are looking for teams of people to cover other Saturdays so hopefully we can open 4 Saturdays each month excluding school holidays (Easter, Christmas and Half Terms) all of July, August and December.

Teams to open the shop will be made up of 2 or 3 people, maybe a friendship group, or we could put volunteers together and they can meet new friends

Two teams would mean each team would only be required about 8 or 9 Saturdays throughout the year once a rota was established.

Required Skills:

- Able to deal with money and cheques
- Able to deal with people and children
- Able to make tea and put the world to rights on several different subjects when there are no customers to serve.

Full training will be given and we can accompany you until you are happy to take over. You do not have to already be in Scouting to do this job but we would ask you to join the

SCOUTING ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT.

Just a simple form to fill in and a DBS check which we will arrange.

This is a seriously simple procedure - do not let it put you off.

Why do we need a Scout Shop and who manages ours?

Jeanette Schwarz manages the Scout Shop and also the Scout Badges which comes under the umbrella of the shop but will not be part of Saturday morning responsibilities.

We run the shop for various reasons:

- To make it easy for parents in Sevenoaks District and beyond to buy uniform. Uniform can be bought on line but as there are many sizes and variations it is not always easy to get a good fit. In our shop customers are encouraged to try the items on
- The Scout Shop brings in an income to support the Sevenoaks Scout District.
- Profit from the Shop goes into the coffers which keeps the membership fees down or goes towards supporting Groups in times of need or maybe fund new equipment. Over the years, the Scout Shop has raised many thousands of pounds for Scouting in Sevenoaks
- Orders for out of the ordinary items are taken through the Scout Shop, Flags, Necker's, Woggles, certificates, and leaflets can be ordered. Also, non-uniform clothing can be ordered as well as trophy's and gifts.

WANT TO HELP SCOUTING? JUST 18 HOURS A YEAR.

Go on find a friend or two, get together and form a team. Simple,

Contact Jeanette scoutshop@sevenoaksscouts.org.uk

Or Chris csmeares@hotmail.com

They will talk you through it

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ACTIVE SUPPORT

What is the Active Support Section and how can I join?

Well I'm glad you asked.

The Active Support section covers a whole range of different things that benefit Scouting away from the weekly section meetings.

An Active Support member maybe involved with an event just once a year or possibly with lots of different events throughout the year, it all depends on the amount of time that they can give. Sometimes members are also leaders that help out with other sections activities but the idea really is to take the pressure off the leaders.

Once a year?

Put on a High Viz jacket and Marshal at the St Georges Day Parade or help on the registration desk at a District event every little bit helps.

Multiple events?

There are District events throughout the year in all the sections and it is good for the organisers to know that there are people in the background that are willing to help on the day or with the organisation beforehand.

As an example, currently the Active Support are organising the Cub Cross Country and about half a dozen members will be required on the day to take pressure off the cub leaders who will be looking after their packs.

I'm a bit of an adventurous person, is there another way I can help with Active Support?

Yes, Yes and YES! There are many adventurous activities that need permit holders so that the young people can take part safely.

Once you've joined Active Support the District can help towards the cost of the Permit Training through the Scout Association. (See **page 9** in this Newsletter)

You will then be asked to get involved with these activities in District and County events.

I have heard there is a social side to the Section.

Yes, that is correct, once a month members meet up for a social meeting usually with an activity arranged

Do I need a DBS to join Active Support?

Yes. but we can arrange that quite simply for you.



Want to join, email Appointment Secretary rosemeears1@gmail.com or speak to a leader in your Scout Group to point you in the right direction.

The Scout Promise

When making the Scout Promise there are different versions to suit everyone. Please choose which is most appropriate for your young Scout and let their leader know your choice. Usually the leader will say their own version and everyone else follows with whichever they feel happiest with.

THE SCOUT PROMISE

FOR SCOUTS, EXPLORER SCOUTS AND ADULTS IN SCOUTING




FOR HINDUS AND BUDDHISTS
On my honour,
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to my Dharma
and to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Scout Law.

FOR CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND SIKHS
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.

FOR MUSLIMS
In the name of Allah,
the Most Beneficial
and the Most Merciful,
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to Allah
and to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Scout Law.


For subjects of independent Commonwealth countries, foreign nationals and individuals who are stateless the following wording can replace 'duty to the Queen'
...to do my duty to the country in which I am now living.

FOR HUMANISTS, ATHEISTS AND THOSE WITH NO DEFINED FAITH
On my honour,
I promise that I will do my best
to uphold our Scout values,
to do my duty to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Scout Law.



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BEAVER SCOUT PROMISE




For Christians, Jews and Sikhs
I promise to do my best
to be kind and helpful
and to love God.

For humanists, atheists and those with no defined faith
I promise to do my best
to be kind and helpful
and to love our world.


For Hindus and Buddhists
I promise to do my best
to be kind and helpful
and to love my Dharma.

For Muslims
I promise to do my best
to be kind and helpful
and to love Allah.



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CUB SCOUT PROMISE



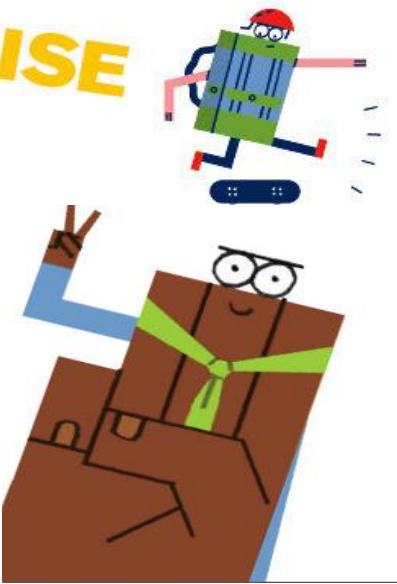
For Hindus and Buddhists
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to my Dharma
and to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

For Muslims
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to Allah
and to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

For humanists, atheists and those with no defined faith
I promise that I will do my best
to uphold our Scout values,
to do my duty to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

For Christians, Jews and Sikhs
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.

For subjects of independent Commonwealth countries, foreign nationals and individuals who are stateless the following wording can replace 'duty to the Queen'
...to do my duty to the country in which I am now living.



Scout Shop

Jubilee Rise off School Lane Seal

You will have seen an advert for staff in the scout shop and may wonder about the current opening times and dates.

Below are the opening times as we know them at the time this e letter is being sent out.

There is also a short price list of uniform on sale.

All opening times are 10 am until 12 noon.

February	4 th only
March	4 th and 18 th
April	22 nd only (this is the day before St Georges Day)
May	6 th and 20 th
June	10 th and 24 th
July	Closed
August	Closed

Basic Uniform prices



Beavers Sweatshirt £13.00



Cubs Sweatshirt



Scout Shirt or Blouse £18.00

Explorer Shirt or Blouse £22.00



Short Sleeve Shirt £21.00



Activity Trousers
All sizes up to age 13
£16.00



Scout Belt and Buckle Set
£13.50



*Also available polo shirts, caps, slimline belts, shorts, woggles and
Some items are 'order only'*

A Million Hands and Water Aid

2016 was the year that Sevenoaks Scouts supported Water Aid through the Million Hands project. Here is the letter that was received from the Community Team at Water Aid.

Victoria Fraser
Sevenoaks District Scout Council



16 November 2016

Dear Victoria,

Thank you for your generous donation of £846.67 and for being a part of A Million Hands. The community impact you are achieving in the partnership between the Scouts and WaterAid is helping raise awareness of, and improving the lives of, the people of the world who do not have clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene practices.

That you have chosen to spread the word and raise money for us is something we really appreciate. In fact, it is more than we have asked for! Working towards the community impact badge doesn't require you to fundraise, so please remember to tell the world about your achievement and the reasons you support us.



You are making a genuine difference in the world in each step of the programme. Remember to record your actions on the <https://www.amillionhands.org.uk/> website and to share with us @wateraidUK and via our WaterAid UK facebook page using #amillionhands.

Thank you so much for your kind gift, and for helping to change people's lives.

Together we will make taps and toilets a reality for everyone everywhere by 2030.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katy Hall'.

Katy Hall

Community team

community@wateraid.org 020 7793 4594

If you have any questions or wish to stop receiving communications from WaterAid, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our supporter care team on 020 7793 4594 or via email at supportercare@wateraid.org

Time Sensitive Article Please Read at once

Kent Scouts - Global Projects

GHANA 2018

Planned expedition to Ghana Jul/Aug 2018



During the summer of 2018 we are offering Kent Explorers aged 16+, and Networkers, the opportunity to visit the Volta Region of Ghana West Africa, with Kent Scouts partnering with African Adventures. Participants will volunteer with the local community, work at schools in developing areas and get to do an exciting excursion to the Cape Coast plus a Volta Adventure weekend. We would like to invite you to an information evening on **Tuesday 31st January at 7:00pm** for leaders, parents and scouts to find out more. Venue: Kent Scouts Activity Centre, Lower Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Sandling, Maidstone. Kent ME14 3DA

African Adventures **is one of the UK's leading volunteer travel organisations specialising in educational trips and they give young people in the UK an unparalleled opportunity to experience a new culture whilst dedicating their time to truly worthwhile causes.** African Adventures' partner schools in Ghana provide an education for children from underprivileged backgrounds. Participants will support the school by coaching sport, engaging in community work, and **classroom teaching. No matter what your child's skill or interest, there's a volunteer role that is** right for each participant.

The trip cost will be £2145 and is all-inclusive. This cost covers flights, transport, meals, accommodation, adventure activities, travel insurance, visas, as well as extensive pre-departure support, orientation and volunteer resources. Participants need only budget separately for any UK medical expenses such as vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis and a small amount spending money.

Most participants fundraise to generate funds for their trip and many successfully fundraise 100% of their trip costs. Participants are encouraged to undertake individual fundraising opportunities where possible. African Adventures provide a free downloadable Fundraising Guide on their website which provides ideas and inspiration to help volunteers raise the necessary amount to travel.

African Adventures is ATOL and ABTA protected and has a 100% safety record. They are also a member of the School Travel Forum, are DofE accredited and have been awarded the Learning outside the Classroom quality badge.

The trip's spaces will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. There will be a deposit of £150 required to secure a place and these can be accepted from the information evening onwards.

Please email alan.noake@kentscouts.org.uk to confirm your attendance at the information evening.

So,

You are a Leader in a Section and want to do more
Adventurous Activities

or

You are not in Scouting but would like to help train
young people in Adventurous Activities
on a non-regular basis

Kent Scouts the Outdoor Adventure Team
Is the place for you.

Here is a sample page from their pages on the Kent Scout website

The Outdoor Adventure Team

<http://www.activities.kentscouts.org.uk/>

We want to support you and show you how easy it is to get out there and have some fun.

The Kent Scout Adventure Team has primarily been put in place to support Adventurous Activities. These are the activities that The Scout Association say Leaders need to be qualified (Permit) or organise a qualified instructor to undertake that activity.

In addition, we have also put in place support for activities that may not require a permit but with additional support, instructors and equipment will bring adventure to more young people.

The Outdoor Adventure Team is made up of Scout Active Support Units (SASUs) who focus on specific activities that sit within the overall Team. *See Team Pages.*

<http://www.activities.kentscouts.org.uk/teams>

We provide:

- 'Have a Go' sessions
- No obligation, turn up and try activities.
- Training for Young People, Young Leaders & Adults across a wide selection of activities.
- Provide where possible (on request) qualified instructors for Group and District events.
- Advice, Support, Train and Assess for Activity Permits.

The Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme

<http://www.activities.kentscouts.org.uk/permits>

The adventurous activity permit scheme is an internal assessment scheme designed to ensure that all those leading adventurous activities for young people within Scouting have the skills, experience and personal suitability to do so.

The scheme may initially look complicated but it is in fact just a set of tasks that you need to go through and the Kent Scout Outdoor Adventures Team are happy to support your specific requirements.

Should you need training to get to the right standard it is important you have sight of the various opportunities that are being put in place to give you the tools and skills you need. The Outdoor Adventures Team can provide advice and guidance to point you in the right direction.

Helping In A Way That Doesn't Involve Adventurous Activities in Your Local Group

Okay, so we hope that this newsletter has shown you that although Scouting is primarily for Young People there is lots of fun to had for Adults as well.

Although you will have heard of Scouting and it's a been something you were aware of maybe it has always been a bit of a mystery to you as to how adults join or get involved.

Maybe it is something you thought that you couldn't get involved with because you don't have a few hours on a regular basis to spare.

We hope that this has shown you that anyone can help some way in Scouting regardless of time constraints and get something out of it for themselves.

Okay we get it, rock climbing ain't your thing, riding the Severn Bore in a canoe isn't a lifetime ambition but in your local Group there are many other ways to help. Just taking rubbish home or giving the HQ a clean once in a while, a lick of paint, or fixing that leaky tap, every little bit helps.

**Please don't wait to be asked, you know what they say
'One volunteer is worth a dozen pressed men (women)'**

Thank you for taking the time to get this far through this newsletter.