

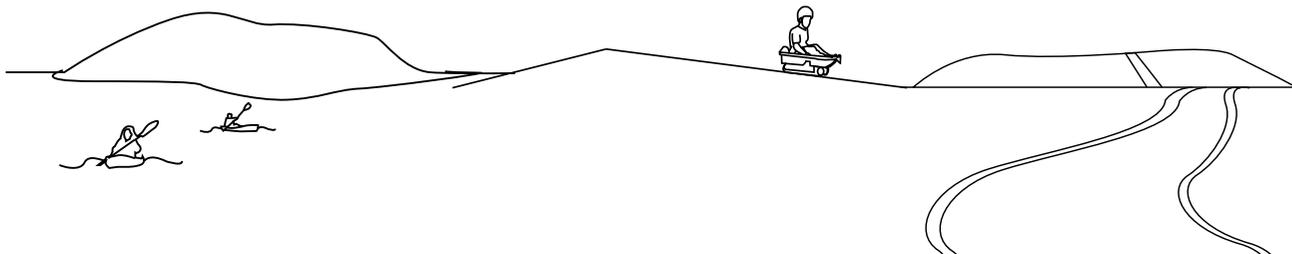
# FROM



# ABSEILING

# TO ZORBING.

A parent's guide to Scouting



# Welcome

**Your child is now one of the 31 million young people from all over the world who enjoy the fun, friendship and adventure that is Scouting.**

This booklet will give you information about Scouting, what it means to be a scout and what your child is likely to experience.

Scouting is all about giving young people the chance to have something I believe they all have a right to – adventure.

This could be trying out a new activity, a first night at camp or achieving a top Scouting award. Whatever it is, everyday adventure is at the heart of what we do.

But we're about much more than the outdoors. We deliver a balanced programme of opportunities to our young people, and award-winning training to our adults.

It's open to everyone aged 6–25, regardless of gender, faith or background. As chief scout, I've met some of the most inspiring young people ever. I'm proud to be part of the largest youth movement in the world and I know your child will be too.

Scouting continues to open young people's eyes to a world of extraordinary promise and possibilities.

Welcome to the adventure.



Bear Grylls, chief scout



# Meet Al

Al met his wife when he was involved on the service crew at a camp and both have been involved in Scouting ever since. Now his two children are involved.



“

Scouting made me a better person and taught me how to get along with children from different backgrounds. This is something I intend to pass on to my children.

It's great for young people because they learn to become respectful, kind and caring adults, have fun without being irresponsible and make new friends. My daughter has speech problems and since she joined beavers her social skills have improved and she has become more confident.

”



# We promise to do our best...

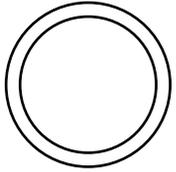
When young people join us, they make the scout promise.

This involves standing in front of friends and family and saying that they will do their best. We call this getting invested.

It's a big moment in any scout's life and you'll want to be there when it happens.

You'll find the wording of the promise for all the age ranges at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)





Sofia, 7,  
beaver



Tabitha, 9,  
cub



Omar, 17,  
explorer



Michael, 12,  
scout



Linda, 30,  
volunteer



Leutrim, 19,  
network member



# A journey of adventure

**There are 400,000 young people in Scouting, spread across five age ranges: beaver scouts, cub scouts, scouts, explorer scouts and the scout network. Each age range has its own balanced programme of activities, badges and awards. Our 100,000 adult volunteers deliver this.**

## Beavers 6–8

Beaver scouts are our youngest members. They usually meet weekly to take part in a wide range of activities including games, crafts, singing, visits and good turns, along with plenty of outdoor activities. They will also have the opportunity to take part in the fun and excitement of camps and sleepovers. It may be the first time they spend a night away from home so it's a real adventure for them.

## Cubs 8–10½

A cub scout pack can have up to 36 cub scouts and is split into smaller groups called sixes. Cubs take part in a wide range of activities designed to be interesting and challenge them. A cub scout meeting consists of games and activities with plenty of time spent outdoors. Camps and holidays are some of the most memorable events of the year for cubs.

## Scouts 10½–14

Each scout troop consists of small units of six to eight scouts called a patrol, usually led by a patrol leader. Outdoor activities feature prominently in the scout troop, with the highlight being camping. Throughout the year, scouts learn various skills, such as map reading, camp cooking and first aid in preparation for camp. Rock climbing, potholing, gliding, sub photography and international experiences are just some of the things they get up to.

## Explorers 14–18

Explorers are encouraged to lead themselves in deciding the programme and direction of the unit, with support and guidance from leaders. The section also includes the young leaders' scheme, where young people are able to take on a leadership role in one of the younger sections. There is wider scope for activities like offshore sailing, campaigning, performing, parascending, mountaineering and expeditions.

## Network 18–25

The scout network is a group who meet in a scout county or district and have an interest in both Scouting and their own personal development. They lead and organise their own activities. Members will become specialists in activities, take part in expeditions and major community projects and take part in schemes like the Queen's scout and Duke of Edinburgh awards.

## Leaders

Our team of adult leaders is made up of dedicated volunteers from all over the UK – they are the people who make Scouting happen near you. For most of the week they are business executives, engineers, plumbers, nurses, teachers, you name it, but the rest of the time they are the heart and soul of what we do.

## Group scout leader

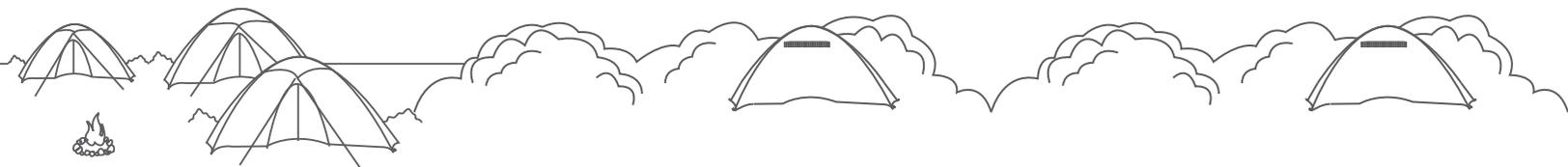
Looking after all the leaders of the sections, which make up a group, are our group scout leaders. They will manage and support the scout group and make sure it is running effectively.

## District commissioner

All the scout groups in your area will be part of a district. A district commissioner runs the district. Your child will get the opportunity to take part in district events, and meet hundreds of new scouts.

## You!

All over the UK, parents are helping out at their local scout group. Maybe you could come to a meeting to make tea, drive a group of young people to an activity event, or help out at a camp. Whatever it is, we are always glad to see you and you will enjoy yourself!



# The benefits of Scouting

Over 400,000 young people enjoy Scouting every week in cities, towns and villages in all parts of the UK.

## What we do

We believe that young people learn by doing and therefore offer an exciting programme of activities to develop your child's potential – physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

For beavers this could be their first time abseiling, for cubs it could be their first week-long camp and for scouts it might be an international trip.

Once your child gets to explorers they may have the opportunity to get involved in speaking up for themselves and their community, as well as accessing international opportunities.

Our activity badge programme combines traditional outdoor pursuits such as climbing, camping, hiking and canoeing with topics as varied as martial arts, healthy eating, business skills and IT.

## How it works

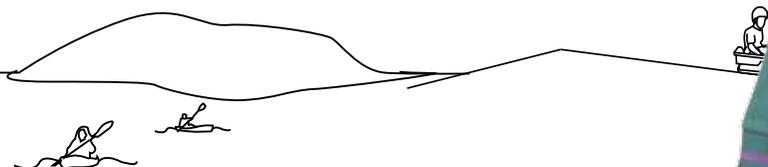
Your child will be able to take part in activities in and away from their usual meeting place, as well as earn badges and take part in community projects. Every group runs slightly differently but what is guaranteed is that your child will enjoy exciting activities that will help them grow in confidence and develop into active citizens.

## More online

The Scout Association [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

Scout Shops [www.scouts.org.uk/shop](http://www.scouts.org.uk/shop)

Unity (Scout Insurance Services) [www.scoutinsurance.co.uk](http://www.scoutinsurance.co.uk)





**The real benefit is when your child comes home and says 'I did that' and they realise they can do something. It gives them confidence.**

Linda



## Over 100 years of adventure

Scouting was started in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell's book, *Scouting for Boys*, established the principles upon which Scouting is based. Those core values remain, and along the way Scouting has evolved into a modern, forward-looking force for good.

Today, the purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people. We help them achieve their full potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

### The impact of Scouting

But don't just take our word for it. An independent study of Scouting's impact on young people and volunteers highlights how Scouting delivers real benefits to our members through the activities we run and the way that we run them.\*

The study had three clear findings:

- Scouting provides a unique package of interrelated benefits: having fun, building relationships, taking part in activities as well as the opportunity to contribute to the community.
- Scouting develops the leaders of today and tomorrow. External organisations said that staff who had been involved in Scouting were above average employees across a range of attributes.
- Scouting is an important community resource.

So, by joining Scouting, it's giving young people the opportunity to be the best they can. And that's what we have always done.

\*A Study of the Impact of Scouting on the UK's young people, adults and communities, PACEC, February 2011



# Getting started

Here are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions from parents.

## What does my child need to take part?

For the first few meetings, your child can just turn up and enjoy themselves. The leader will advise you when it will be time to order their uniform and other materials to help them on their way. These can be ordered from [www.scouts.org.uk/shop](http://www.scouts.org.uk/shop) or ask your child's leader where to buy them locally.

## How much does it cost?

Scouting is one of the most affordable extra curricular activities for young people today. The subscription usually covers the cost of the programme, equipment, overheads, scarf and any badges they earn. This is paid by the week, month or term.

Your child's leader will advise on amounts and payment. Special events, outings or camps may incur an additional fee.

## Do I need to take my child to a Scouting event or camp?

Suitable and safe travel will be organised by the leaders. This could include parents transporting their children to the venue.

## Is my child insured?

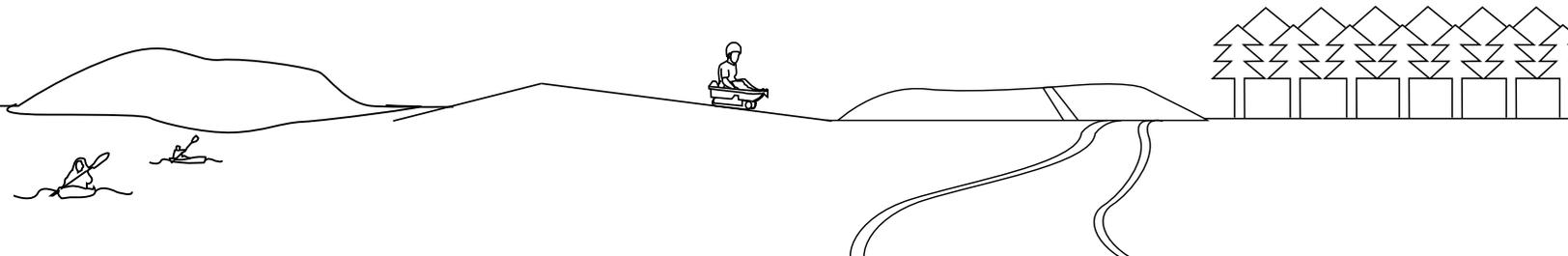
All young people and adults taking part in Scouting activities are covered by The Scout Association's insurance provided by Unity (Scout Insurance Services).

## What happens when my child reaches the maximum age for their section?

When your child nears the end of their time in their current section, their leader should speak to you about the process of moving on to the next one. There may be a period of time when they attend both sections, such as beavers and cubs before settling into cubs. When this happens, your child can gain their moving on award.

## What does the uniform look like?

Young people wear key uniform of a coloured sweatshirt or shirt depending on the age range. They will also wear a special group scarf.



### Where do the badges go?

Your child will soon be taking part in all kinds of activities, which will mean they achieve badges. The following pages show you where each badge should be worn on their uniform.

### Take part in your child's adventure

Many groups will have a parent rota which you may be asked to join. You may feel that you don't have the appropriate skills to help. However, the table below provides a snapshot of ways that parents get involved with their child's scout group. We can, and do, use people with a variety of everyday skills.

Skill	How you can help
First aid qualification	Run a first aid session with young people or adults
Interest in nature	Take young people on a nature ramble
Accountancy	Become the treasurer at group, district or county level
PR	Write a press release for the group
Cooking	Run a cooking session for young people
Training	Run an adult training session
DIY	Paint doors or fix shelves in the meeting place



# Get it all online

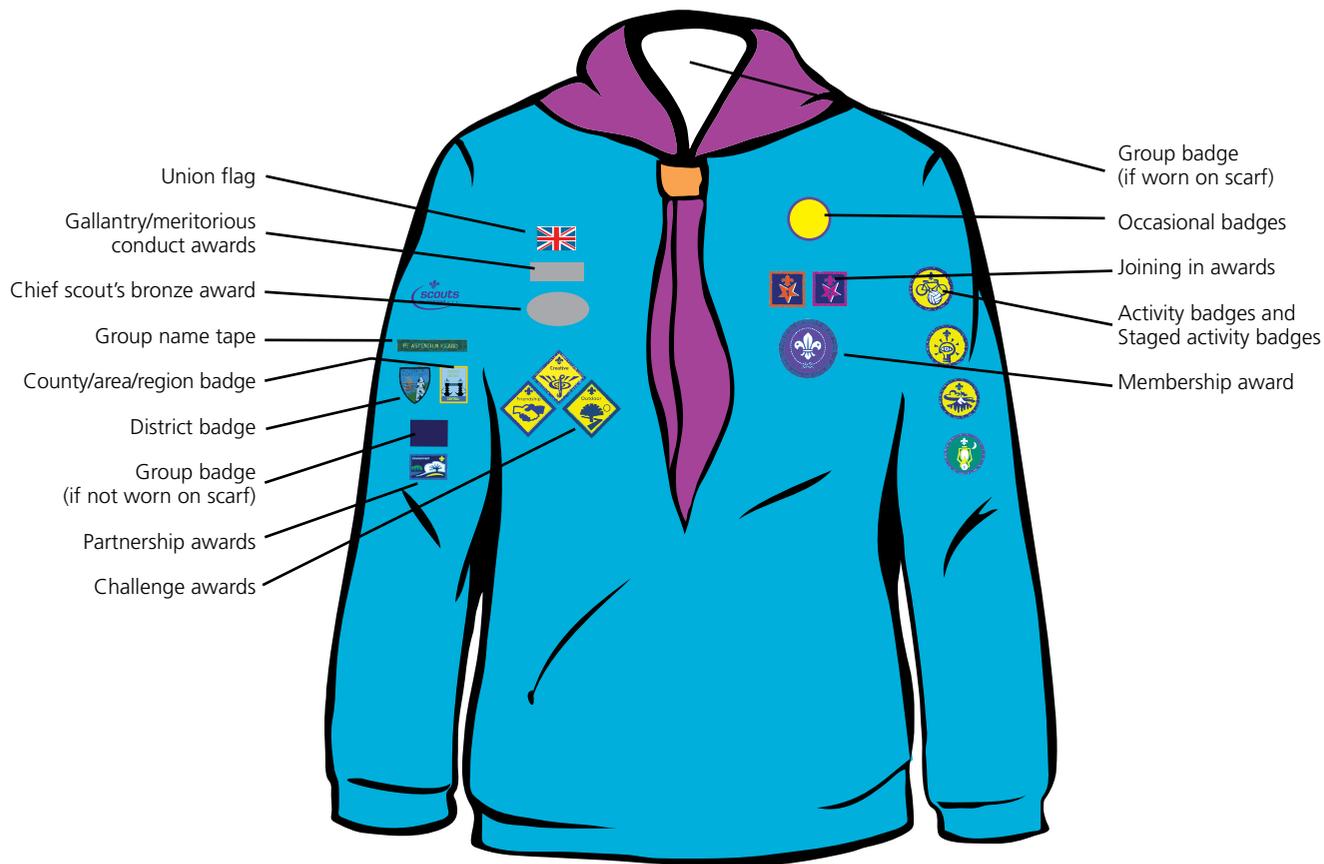


visit [scouts.org.uk/shop](https://scouts.org.uk/shop) for the full range

**Scout  
SHOPS**

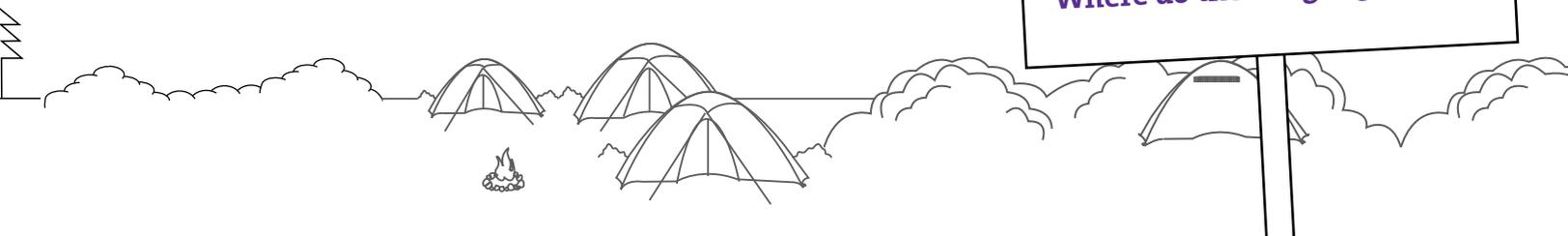


Scout Shops Limited, registered company number 1101498, is wholly owned by The Scout Association, registered charity numbers 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland).



# Beavers

Where do the badges go?





Union flag

Gallantry/meritorious  
conduct awards

Chief scout's award

Group name tape

County/area/region badge

District badge

Group badge  
(if not worn on scarf)

Leadership stripe

Partnership awards

Challenge awards

Group badge  
(if worn on scarf)

Occasional badges

Moving on award

Joining in awards

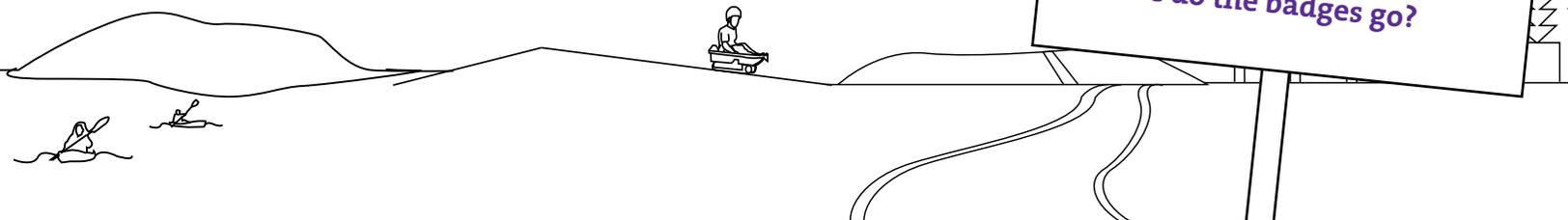
Activity badges and  
staged activity badges

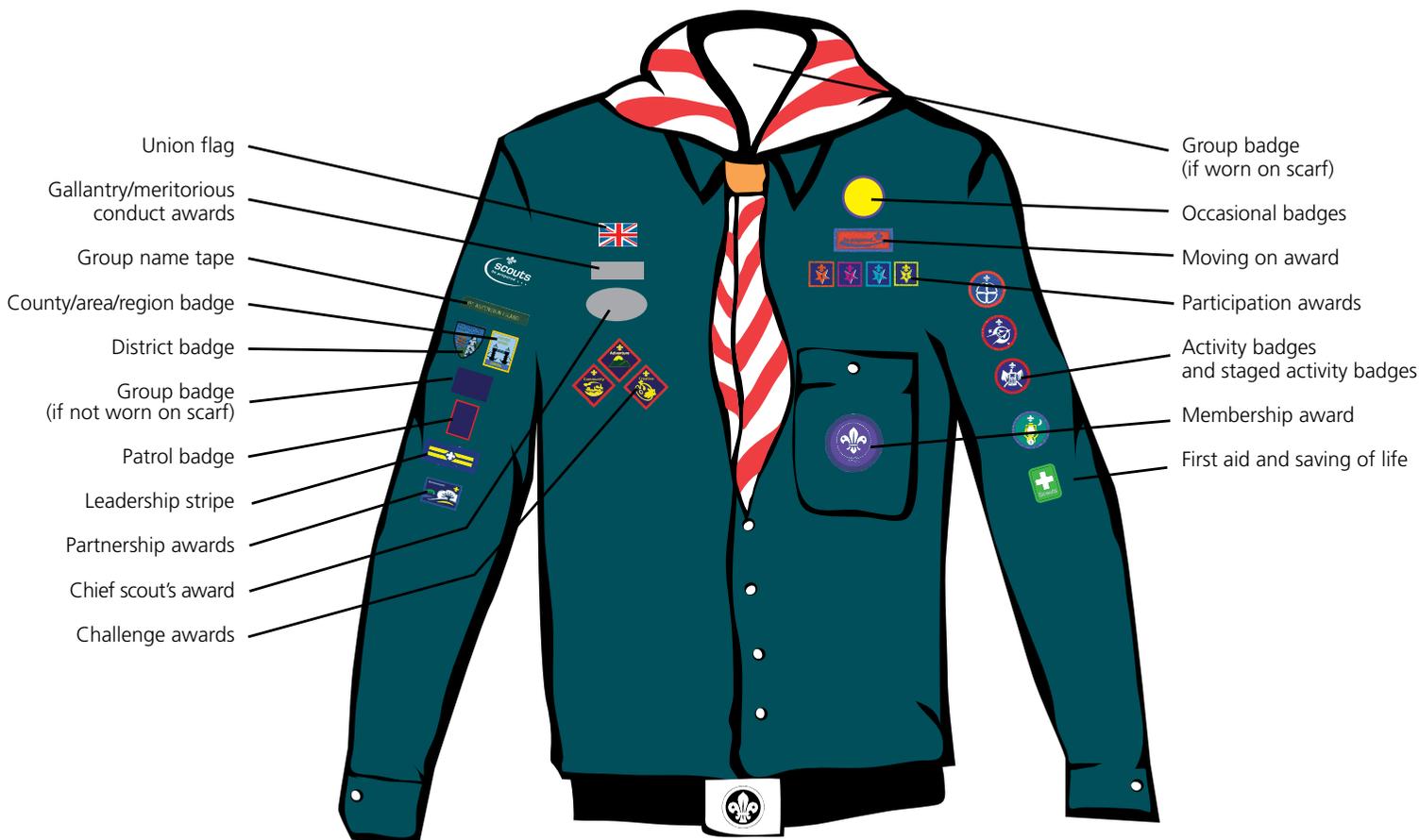
Membership award



**Cubs**

Where do the badges go?





# Scouts

Where do the badges go?



# Our volunteers

Scouting only happens because of our 100,000 adult volunteers.

Volunteering in Scouting is fun and rewarding – just ask our chief scout Bear Grylls:

'Parents invariably see what Scouting does for their children and many decide to get involved with their child's scout group. Whether they can give time once a year or one hour a month, helping out is flexible. It can work around your life, and parents tell me every day what a positive experience it is contributing to young people's development.'

Not all of our adults work with young people. There are roles for managers, administrators, trainers, event organisers and many others. We can provide many flexible volunteering options that fit around existing commitments.

## Award-winning training

Our volunteers get as much out of Scouting as our young people. Our award-winning training scheme means that volunteers can build upon existing skills, such as teamwork, leadership and communication, which are highly valued by employers. Over 40% of employers agree that scout volunteering on a CV is a positive influence on their decision to employ someone and 60% agree that scouts make better-than-average employees.

The flexible training scheme recognises prior learning and skills to ensure that scouting aids the development of our adults as well as our young people. Some elements of training count towards externally-recognised qualifications. There are also internal awards to recognise dedication to training and outstanding service.



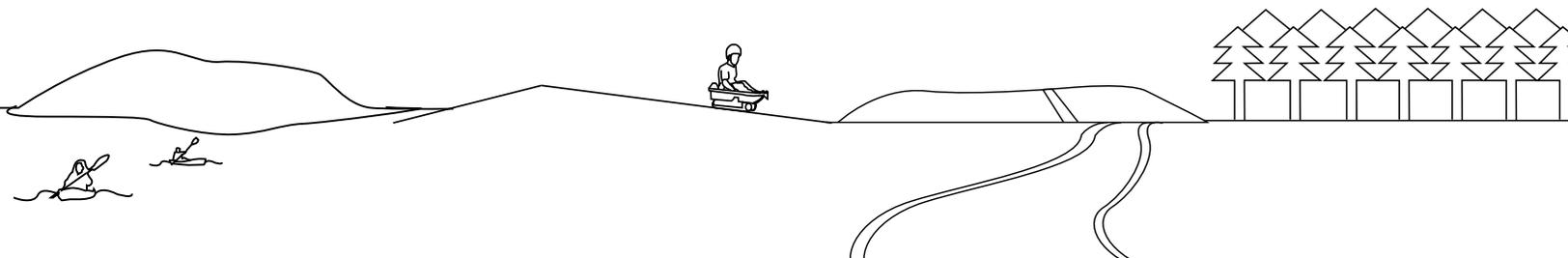
## How we operate

All of our leaders operate within the key policies of the Association:

- **Anti-bullying** – any bullying is unacceptable.
- **Religious** – understand and observe the promise.
- **Equal opportunities** – no young person or adult should experience discrimination.
- **Safety** – provide Scouting in a safe manner.
- **Development** – make Scouting available in all communities.
- **Child protection** – safeguard the welfare of all members.

## Young people first

The safety and wellbeing of your child is central to everything we do. Ask your child's leader for a copy of the Young People First code of good practice and a Safe and Sound leaflet. These contain important information about safety and child protection in Scouting.





**My Scouting experience and the skills it has given me (organisation, book keeping and administration) are included on my CV. This has always been looked upon favourably.**

*Roger, volunteer*



---

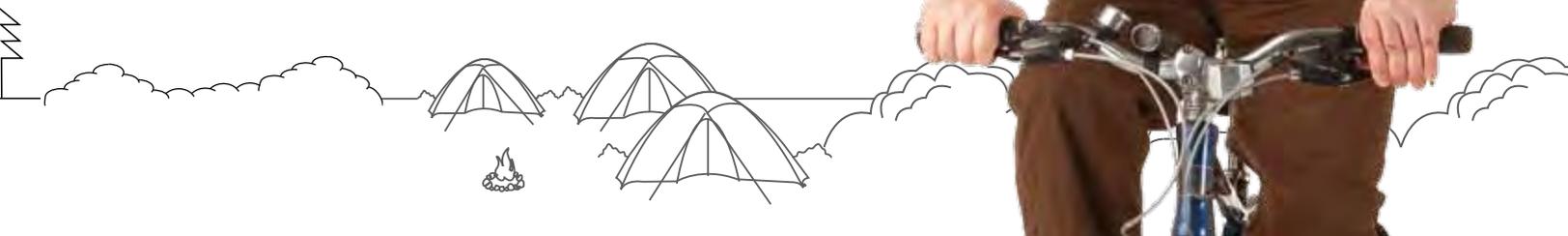
### Did you know?

- Scouting is a charity. All leaders are unpaid volunteers and the majority have a full-time job and family.
- About half of our volunteers are female.
- Volunteers don't have to wear uniform.
- All our leaders are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy while taking part in Scouting.
- There are over 30,000 young people waiting to join Scouting. The main reason for this large waiting list is that we don't have enough adults to help out.

## More online



For more information please visit:  
[www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer)



# Help and support

As a parent, it's important to keep up to date with what is happening in Scouting. There is lots of support available and opportunities to get involved.

## Stay in the loop

Adventure News is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to parents and carers of scouts. It's free to sign up to it and every month we'll email you updates on what's new in Scouting, including events and special offers from our corporate partners. Sign up at: [www.scouts.org.uk/subscribe](http://www.scouts.org.uk/subscribe)

## Volunteer

If you'd like to help out with your local group, speak to your child's leader about opportunities that would suit you. Alternatively, sign up to our national volunteering site and someone will get in touch.

[www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer)

## The badge app

If you would like to help your child with gaining badges, download My Badges (UK Programme) from iTunes. It's the official badge app of The Scout Association.

[www.scouts.org.uk/mybadges](http://www.scouts.org.uk/mybadges)

## Peace of mind

We have a thorough complaints procedure where we endeavour to deal with all issues quickly and competently. Our leaders are trained to deal with complaints in a positive and proactive manner and do not hide from opportunities for change and improvement. If you have any concerns, please visit [www.scouts.org.uk/parents](http://www.scouts.org.uk/parents)

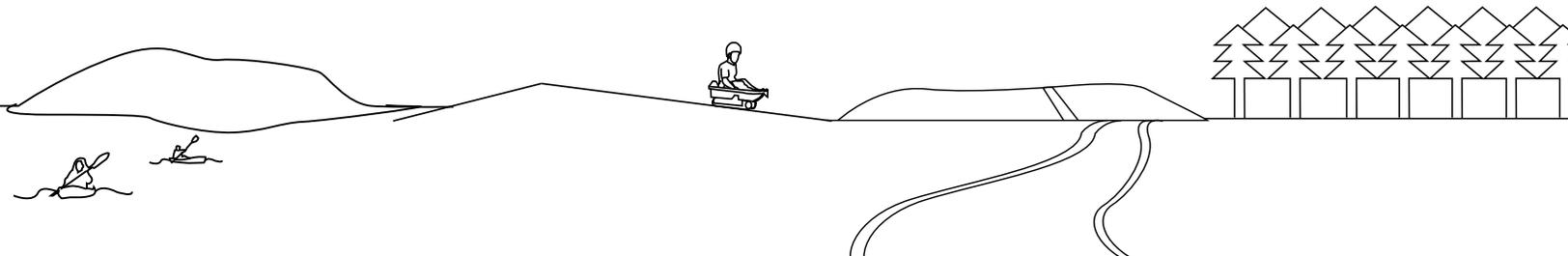
## Supporting your child's adventure

We are a charity, so donations help us to develop the adventurous activities we offer to our 400,000 youth members. With your help we can offer Scouting to even more children and young people. You can donate online at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) with a one-off gift donation or choose to give regularly. All donations can be increased by Gift Aid.

---

## Contact us

For help, advice or support call our information centre on **0845 300 1818** or email us at [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk)



# Meet Paula

Paula, a parent whose son attends a beaver colony, is now a regular Scouting volunteer.



“

I live in one of the most deprived areas in Scotland and it has a bad reputation.

I was one of a group of parents who felt that the values of Scouting could really have an impact in the area and make a difference to the lives of the children who live here.

On the first night the beaver colony ran, I dropped my son off and waited outside in the car as there was no point driving home and back again. I could hear all the fun that was taking place inside so I began helping out – making tea and such.

One year on, and I'm a section assistant.

What makes a difference, and what I love, is the effect the group is having on the children.

”

# Get it all online



visit [scouts.org.uk/shop](https://scouts.org.uk/shop) for the full range

**Scout  
SHOPS**



Scout Shops Limited, registered company number 1101498, is wholly owned by The Scout Association, registered charity numbers 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland).

Copyright © 2012 The Scout Association Registered Charity Numbers 306101  
(England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

Incorporated by Royal Charter. **Patron:** HM The Queen

**President:** HRH Duke of Kent **Founder:** Robert Baden-Powell OM

**Chief scout:** Bear Grylls