

# Wilson House Scout Group



# Welcome Pack

## **WELCOME**

Dear Parent/Guardian

Can I wish you a very warm welcome to our Scout Group.

This welcome pack will hopefully answer any questions that you may have regarding the Scout Association and our Group.

If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Thomas

Email: [GSL@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:GSL@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

## **WHAT IS SCOUTING?**

Scouting is an international movement with over 28 million members worldwide, spread through 216 countries and territories. The number of countries recognising the value of Scouting and accepting its principles is increasing and there are only six countries in the world who do not offer Scouting to young people.

In total there are about 500,000 people in Membership throughout the United Kingdom. This includes about 100,000 adults who have taken up appointments as voluntary leaders, administrators and supporters.

The Scout Association in the UK accepts members of all major faiths and offers equal opportunities for both boys and girls no matter what their social, religious or ethnic background may be. During 1991, girls were admitted to the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Sections. This complemented the admission of young women to the Venture Scout Section in 1976.

During the spring of 2002 the Scout Association launched a new programme for young people aged 6-25. This was the largest change to our curriculum for nearly 40 years. A careful strategy of change management was devised to help people move forward, delivering a totally new way of providing Scouting, to the 14-25 age range.

## **THE PURPOSE OF SCOUTING**

Scouting in the UK is organised through The Scout Association. The Scout Association has a clear purpose:

*'To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as Members of their local, national and international communities'.*

Even if we can't solve all the problems in the world, we can help to make it a better place. We do this by helping young people to develop as active members of their community;

- who are self-reliant
- who are caring
- who are responsible
- who are show commitment.

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by doing in partnership with adults.

They do this by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences exploring the outdoors participating in teams taking responsibility.

Our method for giving young people the opportunity to learn by doing is called the Programme. The Programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people do in Scouting from the ages of 6 to 25.

All adults in Scouting have a responsibility to make sure that the Programme is fun and exciting. We must also make sure that it is safe. The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, advice on child protection and safety are there to help adults make sure that the young people in their care stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

## **THE SCOUT PROMISE**

Scouting has a simple and positive promise that is required to be made by all members. The Promise together with the Scout Law, gives a distinctive ethos to the practices of the Movement and acts as a bond with Scouts in other countries.

The three key principles are:

- Duty to self
- Duty to god
- Duty to others

Everyone in Scouting expresses their membership and acceptance of the three key principles by taking the Promise and following the Scout Law. Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts have their own special Promise and Law, suitable for their age range.

### **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

Other alternative wordings can be viewed on the Scout Association Website

### **The Scout Law**

- A Scout is to be trusted.
- A Scout is loyal.
- A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
- A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

### **The Scout Motto**

Be prepared!

## THE FIVE SECTIONS

Irrespective of a member's age, a young person in the Movement is a 'Scout'.

The balanced Programme spans the 6-25 age range which is made up of five Sections. Each Section has its own identity, ethos and style. They all have adult support that varies in style across the different age groups.

A Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between six and eight. (6-month flexibility applies)

A Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8 - 10 ½. (6-month flexibility applies)

A Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10 ½ - 14 years (6-month flexibility applies)

These are all part of a Scout Group.

An Explorer Scout Unit is for young people from 14-18 years old.

Explorer Scout Units are part of a Scout District (S.W.Cheshire), although some are attached to Groups.

A Scout Network is for young people aged 18 - 25 years old.

Scout Networks are the responsibility of the Scout County (Cheshire).

There are several important things, which make Scouting different from many other youth organisations:

- We are a uniformed movement
- We use 'Lodges', 'Sixes' and 'Patrols' of about 6 young people who work together, learning from and supporting each other
- We involve young people in decision making as part of their development

Additionally, the group has a Scout Active Support section, comprising adults who are prepared to assist with activities and events. If you are happy to join the SAS mailing list and receive occasional requests for help, please contact our group scout leader, Andy if you would like to help with Scout Active Support section for our group.



## THE BEAVER COLONY

A Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between 6 and 8 years old (6-month flexibility applies). They meet together as a Colony and work within small groups called 'Lodges'. A team of volunteer adults will run the Beaver Scout Colony. Beavers take part in a wide range of activities. These include making things, singing, playing games, going on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories etc. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the leadership team.

Beaver Scouts:

- Learn about themselves – exploring their feelings and developing good habits of health and personal safety.
- Get to know people – finding out about people in their family, the family of Scouting, the local community and the wider world
- Explore - discovering the exciting world of science, nature and technology, exploring the natural and man-made world
- Care - growing and responding to the needs of others, the local community and the wider world.

Beaver Scout work towards challenge awards, which are awarded by taking part in the regular programme. With hard work and regular attendance Beavers can gain their Bronze Award, which is presented in a district ceremony.

Beavers also have the opportunity to gain Activity Badges, which they can work towards both inside and outside pack meetings.

Meetings

Our Beaver Colony meets on Thursday's 18.30-20.00

Beaver Scout Leader: Paul Goodwin

Email: [Beavers@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Beavers@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

## THE CUB PACK

A Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8-10 ½ years old (6-month flexibility applies). Cub Scouts meet as a Pack and work within a variety of small groups called 'Sixes'. A team of adults will run the Cub Scout Pack, usually led by an Akela, some will be uniformed leaders others maybe sectional assistants, helpers or parents.

Cubs take part in a wide range of activities that are designed to be interesting and to challenge them. At the same time they have fun, adventure and make friends along the way. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the Leadership team such as: camping, playing games, trying new things and exploring the outdoors.

Cub Scouts work towards awards and badges. The Cub Scout Membership Award is presented to new Cub Scouts once they have learnt about the traditions and history of Scouting and about being a Cub Scout today. Activity badges are specialist interest badges that can further develop a Cub Scout's interest. They can also form the basis for special events, and some are geared at the whole pack working together. With hard work and regular attendance Cub Scouts can gain their Silver Award, which is presented in a district ceremony.

Camps and outings are the most memorable events during the year. They are the chance to carry out activities that are not possible at the regular weekly meeting.

Akela, the Cub Scout Leader, who has overall responsibility for the Pack, will lead the volunteer Leadership Team.

It is however, very much a team effort with everyone having something to offer.

### Meetings

Our Cub Pack meets on Monday's 18:30 to 20:00

Cub Scout Leader: Jackie Bloor

Email: [Cubs@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Cubs@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

## THE SCOUT TROOP

A Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10 ½ - 14 years old (6-month flexibility applies). Scouts meet as a Troop and work within a variety of small groups called 'Patrols' lead by a Scout Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders work with the Leadership Team in setting the programme and in decisions affecting the Troop. The Patrol system is one of the important ways that young people can take responsibility for themselves and others.

A volunteer leadership team made up of uniformed Leaders and other informal Assistants and helpers will guide the Troop!

Scouting has a reputation as an outdoor organisation based on strong traditions of camping and other outdoor pursuits.

Scouts work towards challenge awards, culminating in the Chief Scouts Gold Award, which is presented in a county ceremony by the County Commissioner. Scouts also have the opportunity to gain a wide range of activity badges by working inside and outside troop meetings. Most of the badges and awards in Scouts require independent work by the scouts themselves.

Most Troops will offer a number of events away from home during the year, and very often a summer camp. These are important to the life of the Troop, as they are the culmination of much of the training during the year.

### Meetings

Our Scout Troop meets on Wednesdays 19:00 to 21:00.

### Contact Details:

Scout Leader: Richard Percival

Email: [Scouts@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Scouts@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

## WHERE DO WE MEET?

Most meetings are at Wilson House, 85 Ford Lane, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 3EH



### PARENTS BECOME MEMBERS OF THE Wilson House Scout COUNCIL

When your child joins Wilson House Scout Group, you as a parent become a member of the Wilson House Scout Council. The group functions because everyone volunteers in some way to benefit the young people.

We ask that along with helping in some way, that as parents you support your young person and the group by ensuring they have what they need for each weekly meeting and as a family attending our annual general meeting. This meeting is a legal requirement for the group to retain its charity status and is an opportunity for the young people to receive badges and awards along with the best Beaver, Cub & Scout trophy for the year.

The leaders put a lot of their time voluntary into providing scouting for the young people all year round, so one could say that it is very little to ask of parents to ensure that they attend this one meeting a year.



## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Scout Groups charge subscriptions to cover cost of equipment, 2 minibuses and the resources to enable us to deliver good quality Scouting. Part of those subscriptions (subs), go towards the annual membership fee paid to headquarters for the day-to-day running of The Scout Association that includes insurance for all members.

### Subscription Fee and Due Date

Subs for each Scout in all sections will be £10 per month. Subs fall due on the first day of each month throughout the year, spreading costs monthly. Paid in advance. Each child has a separate subscription and the payment in OSM is set up separately for each child.

### Paying Your Subscription

We use a web-based system called Online Scout Manager (OSM) to run the group finances as efficiently as possible. The OSM My Scout parent portal automatically logs your subscriptions by Direct Debit via GoCardless a secure 3rd party payment provider. Your Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers. Your Scout Leaders would much prefer to spend as much time as possible in providing an exciting programme of meetings, camps and events rather than being tied up in administration. OSM is a system widely used throughout the UK not only by Scouts but also Guides and other youth organisations. Developed by active Scout Leaders, it greatly simplifies many of the administrative tasks required to run a Scout Group and has already been very successfully used by Wilson House in secure and GDPR compliant storage of membership and emergency contact details and in prompt delivery of earned badges.

OSM has the advantage that the process is automatic, has a clear audit trail and our treasurer can easily form accounts and importantly Gift Aid applications at the end of the financial year. Parents can easily see (via MyScout) all their past and pending payments and can easily cancel if that becomes necessary.

All Direct Debit payments are covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee which means you are entitled to a full and immediate refund if there are any errors in a payment. Payments are not actually handled by OSM but securely by GoCardless which is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland. Your bank details are held only by GoCardless and are never shared with OSM or the Scout Group or leaders. GoCardless uses very high grade encryption for all sensitive online communication.

### Gift Aid

This is the government scheme by which charities such as Scouts can reclaim tax at the basic rate of 25% on subscriptions. This is at no extra cost to you! As you can imagine this represents significant revenue that can be used within the Scout Group to support the delivery of Scouting to the Young People. Basically, for every pound you give us, we get one pound twenty five to spend.

OSM automatically tracks Gift Aid eligible payments. When you setup to make your first Subs payment via OSM you will receive an invitation to complete a very simple online form to opt in/out of this Gift Aid scheme. Please support the group by completing the form.

### **Making payments via OSM**

When joining you will receive an email asking you to set up a Direct Debit in MyScout. (Tip: check Spam folder if no MyScout email seems to have arrived). Click on the link and this will take you straight to your payment page in MyScout.

Alternatively, you can simply login to [MyScout](#) and click on the Payments tab at the top.

If you have forgotten your MyScout login details, please email your section leader who will send you a new login invitation.

### **Cancelling Payments**

You will receive an email notification before any payments are taken from your bank account and can cancel payments by clicking on the link in this notification. You can also cancel by logging into [MyScout](#) and cancelling from your payments page.

### **Moving Between Sections/Groups**

When a scout moves up to the next section or moves from one Scout Group to another, any Direct Debits will automatically cancel and thus will need newly setting up in the new Group/Section. This is an aspect of OSM that we cannot change. You will receive the [MyScout](#) email to set up the new Direct Debit as described above.

### **Financial Help**

We appreciate that funds can sometimes be tight. If you need a bit of help with the cost of a camp etc or if you want to spread the payments, then please have a quiet confidential chat with your section Leader or Group Scout Leader. We are as flexible as possible and would rather know in advance than be chasing you later!

We are keen that everyone has the opportunity to attend at least one camp each year.

It is not our policy to exclude any young person from an activity because of cost; however we do not have a bursary fund.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

There is a waiting list for entry into each unit of the Group. Our numbers are limited by space and the number of adult volunteers that can attend regularly.

Once a member of the group, young people are guaranteed a space in the next section as they progress.

We make every effort to accommodate siblings of existing members, however there is no automatic entry for siblings – they must be added to the waiting list in the normal manner.

### **How do I put my name on the waiting list?**

Please use the form on the web-site ([www.wilsonhousescouts.org.uk](http://www.wilsonhousescouts.org.uk)) to register, under Contact Us - Join.

You will need to provide the name and date of birth of the young person and your contact details.

The Section Leader will request further information from you and will then be in touch 4 weeks before your young person is likely to start.

### **Is there anything I can do to get my young person a place?**

We accept people into the group depending on their age and how long they have been on the waiting list, location & sibling link. However there is a way to move your young person up the waiting list...

**Volunteer!** Not only does this help us increase the size of each unit, we give priority to children of leaders. See the section *Parental Support & Adult Help* in this document.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD JOINS?**

Your young person will attend the relevant section for 4 -6 weeks to ensure that they are enjoying themselves and that we do not have any issues that need to be discussed with the parents.

From here you will be asked to purchase uniform for your young person to be invested. A scarf, woggle and certificate will be presented. Subscriptions become payable as soon as your child is invested.

## HEALTH

The Scout Association Rules stipulate that no child is allowed to undertake any activity without a Health Information Form.

Please complete the Member Details Form (towards the end of this pack), which will be kept on file by the section leader for regular week-to-week activities. For out of the ordinary activities, you will be sent a permission form which will include a health information section. Please include anything that may be relevant to the activity on that form, including dietary restrictions.

## SAFETY

The Scout Association takes pride in its safety record. Guidance is provided to Leaders through their District and County support to ensure that Scouting activities are as safe as possible. Safety issues are covered extensively in our Leader Training.

For more adventurous activities such as water sports, caving and mountaineering, we have special authorisation arrangements to ensure Scouts are in safe hand

## CHILD PROTECTION

The Scout Association's child protection policy is known as the 'Young People First' policy.

It's often referred to as the 'yellow card' policy because of the pocket sized reminder card all adults are asked to keep and carry with them.

The 'Young People First' policy is held up as an example of best practice and praised by the child protection agencies. The Scout Association also enjoys the confidence and trust of thousands of parents who each week place their children in our care.

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. The Scout Association is committed to:

- taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people;
- respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working;
- taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse,
- Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.



All adults aged eighteen or over, no matter what their role or involvement within Scouting, are responsible for putting this policy into practice at all times.

If you would like a copy of the Yellow Card, please ask your Section Leader

### **DISCLOSURE AND BARRING**

Scouting continues to hold the safety and wellbeing of your child with utmost importance. It is therefore the policy of Wilson House Scout Group that every adult in Scouting should complete a DBS disclosure', every adult in Scouting means – any adult who holds a role within our organisation be it, Cub Leader, Group Treasurer, or Group Chair.

This policy also includes every adult connected to Scouting in our group who helps more than once a month or stays overnight at a camp with any of the sections

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT & ADULT HELP**

Scouting depends on its adult volunteers and we would welcome your involvement.

As a parent of the group member, you automatically become a member of our Scout Council and as a minimum we expect you to help out for one evening with your young person's section each term if required, and help at one of our maintenance days.

Maybe you could help in one of the following ways and join the adventure that Scouting offers adults as well as young people?

- Offering a skill to help train or help one of the sections for a badge or award.
- Help prepare refreshments for a section of Group event.
- Help to transport some to any event away from the hall.
- Help when we take the young people on camp.
- Support the Scout Group at social evenings
- Support the Group's fund-raising activities.
- Join the Executive committee and help manage the Scout Group
- Or helping out maintaining the hut and grounds.

### **Did you know:**

- You can also achieve tutoring qualifications in any/all of our activities
- There is no payment for being a leader (except expenses), but you can expect lots of fun and to make many friends!
- That Nationally recognised training, typical qualifications can include First Aid, and qualifications in activities, such as climbing, water sports, sailing, archery and even chainsaw use

If you are interested in becoming a leader or a helper on a regular or occasional basis please contact Andy Thomas, Group Scout Leader. No previous experience is necessary, as training will be provided.

## BADGES , UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Each section has its own uniform, although the activity trousers are common to all sections

Specific activities may have additional requirements. With any luck you will be notified of these in good time by your Section Leader.

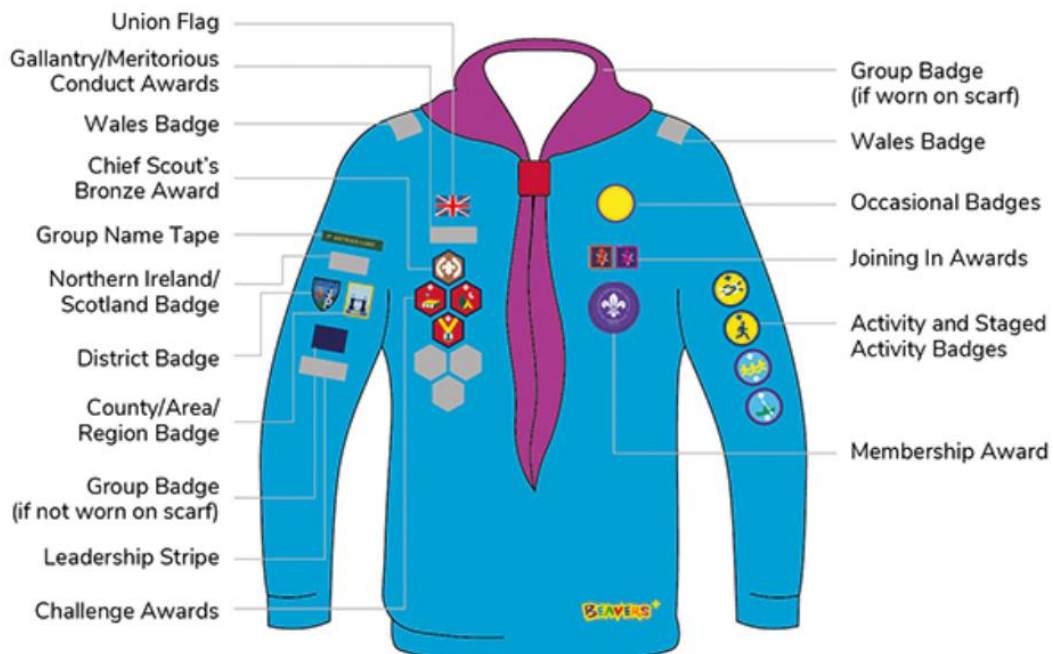
### Beavers

Beaver Scout uniform consists of the following items

- A Beaver Scout jumper
- Scout activity trousers
- Group scarf with a woggle (both presented by the group on investiture – ours is Royal Blue with Red edging)

In addition to the specific uniform items each Member will need have a set of waterproofs (jacket and trousers) and a day sack of sufficient size to carry lunch, a drink and waterproofs during offsite activities.

## Where do my badges go?



## Cubs

Cub uniform consists of the following items

- Green sweatshirt
- Scout activity trousers
- Group scarf with a woggle (both presented by the group on investiture – ours is Royal Blue with Red edging)

In addition to the specific uniform items each Member will need have a set of waterproofs (jacket and trousers) and a day sack of sufficient size to carry lunch, a drink and waterproofs during offsite activities.

## Where do my badges go?

cubs





## Scouts

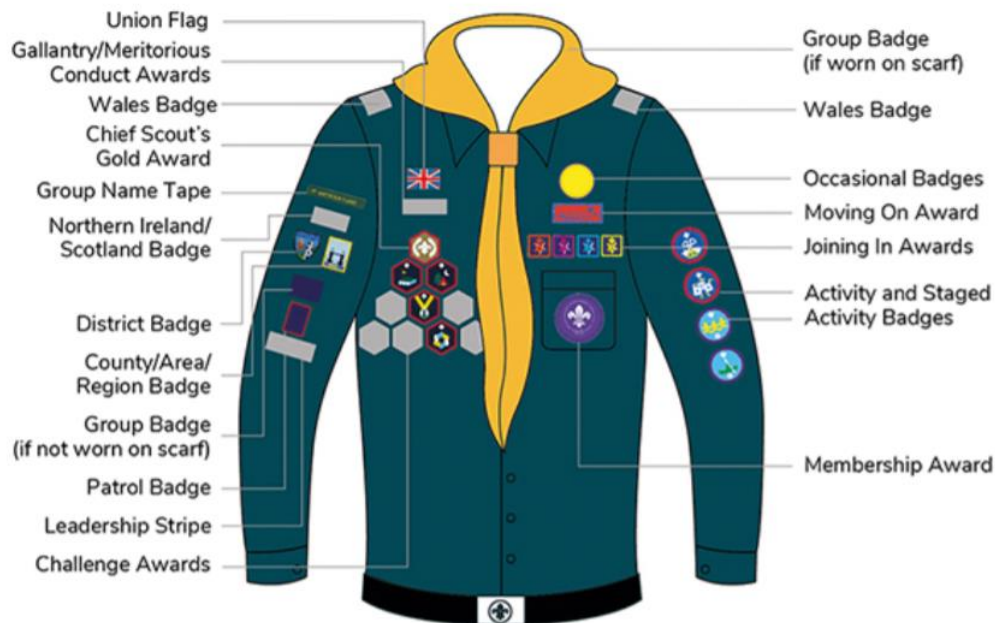
Scout uniform consists of the following items

- A scout shirt
- Scout activity trousers
- Scout belt
- Group scarf with a woggle (both presented by the group on investiture – ours is Royal Blue with Red edging)

In addition to the specific uniform items each Member will need a set of waterproofs (jacket and trousers) and a day sack of sufficient size to carry lunch, a drink, and waterproofs during offsite activities.

## Where do my badges go?

# SCOUTS



## **Communication**

The Scout Group generates lots of information and instructions for Members and their parents / guardians. You will find that the leaders of each Section have their own preferred mechanisms, but these include

- A termly programme, listing the activities, locations and, where possible, special equipment needed
- The group calendar – available on the website
- Notes home to parents
- Text messages – for urgent information or during an event / activity
- The website – articles, reports and photographs from events and activities
- Emails giving programme updates and reminders
- Facebook for general updates, events and discussions

We make every effort to rationalise the information but it is important that you read and respond promptly to messages to ensure that your young person does not miss out.

It goes without saying that if you have any questions or concerns; please raise them with the appropriate Section Leader or with our Group Scout Leader.

Note. If you need to talk to a leader there tends to be more time at the end of a meeting than beforehand. Often an email or a text message saying that you would like a chat helps too

## **GDPR**

We will use the personal information that you provide us in accordance with applicable data protection laws and our Privacy Policy. The main way in which your data will be used will be to contact you about scout events and activities including our group fundraising events and if we need to contact you whilst your child is in our care. For our full policy please visit our website or request a paper copy.

If you do have any queries regarding how we handle or store your data, then please contact our Group Chairman.

## **Photographs / Video Footage**

The various sections regularly take part in a wide range of activities, organised at a Group, District or County level. Many of these involve challenging activities, which the youngsters involved often like as evidence to prove that they have taken part.

In addition, images of the youngsters enjoying themselves can be extremely useful for publicity purposes, internally (e.g. for use on the Group newsletter), externally (sent to local newspapers, 'Scouting Magazine' (which is provided to Leaders in Scouting) etc.), and on display boards etc. in the Scout HQ. Photographs and video footage of the youngsters in the activities may also be used as a training aid (both adult and youngsters) or as validation of adult training.

At Group events it is relatively easy for the Leaders in charge to take suitable and agreeable photographs of the children involved. At larger events such as District or County events, it is not necessarily possible for the Leader to dictate what photographs might be taken or the specific end use of the photographs. However as the photographs would be taken as part of a Scouting event they would need to comply with The Scout Association's Child Protection Policy, as would photographs or video images taken during Group events.

Please ask if you have any questions concerning this. If we wish to use photos for any other purposes we will seek your permission.

Also please complete the Photo Permission box on OSM.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Group Website: [www.WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](http://www.WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Online Scout Manager: [www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk](http://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk)

Group Facebook Page: Wilson House Scouts

District Website: [www.swcscouts.org.uk](http://www.swcscouts.org.uk)

County Website: [www.cheshirescouts.org.uk](http://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk)

National Website: [www.scouts.org.uk/parents](http://www.scouts.org.uk/parents)

Group Scout Leader Andy Thomas: [GSL@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:GSL@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Group Chairman Andrew Thompson-Perry: [Chairman@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Group Secretary, Hayley Goodwin: [Admin@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Admin@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Beaver Scout Leader Paul Goodwin: [Beavers@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Beavers@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Cub Scout Leader Jackie Bloor: [Cubs@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Cubs@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)

Scout Leader Richard Percival: [Scouts@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk](mailto:Scouts@WilsonHouseScouts.org.uk)