

Wiltshire County Scouts - Example Booklet

TROOP INFORMATION



This booklet has been put together as a reference for Scouts and their parents. It contains information about a host of relevant things about the Scouts, and about 2nd Onchan Scouts Phoenix Troop in particular. It isn't really intended to be read from cover to cover, instead, to be dipped into when required.

What is Scouting?

Scouting is a world-wide uniformed movement with the aim of developing young people into responsible citizens. This is carried out through fun, challenging and adventurous activities. A Scout Group can consist of up to four sections:

Beaver Scouts (for boys & girls aged 6 to 8 years of age)

Cub Scouts (for boys & girls aged 8 to 10½)

Scouts (for boys & girls aged 10½ to 15½)

Venture Scouts (for young men and women aged 15½-20)

Membership in the 2nd Onchan Scout Group is open to boys only at the present time. The Group owns its own Headquarters in School Road, Onchan and also Leases a Bunkhouse, Watertrough Cottage, in South Barrule Plantation.



Promise and Law

The underlying values of Scouting are written in the Promise and Law. Scouts are asked to accept this as a list of values before they are invested as members of the Troop.

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.

The Scout Law:

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

Membership of the Troop

The Scout Section is open to boys aged between 10 and 15½ years of age. 2nd Onchan is an open Group; this means that it is not sponsored by any church or school and membership is open to any boy of the appropriate age. In reality, the intake to the Troop is limited by the overall number of boys already in the Troop. The Troop is maintained at between 22 - 30 members.

When places become available, they are offered to boys following these criteria:

- a) Cub Scouts from both 2nd Onchan Cub Packs when they reach 10½ years.
- b) Boys who move into the area who are already Scouts in a different Troop.
- c) Boys whose parents are Leaders/Helpers in the Scout

Group, or whose parents take an active role on the Group Executive Committee.

Younger brothers of Scouts.

- d) Any other boys of the appropriate age, in order of date of their entry to the waiting list.

The Group's Leaders

Almost all adults in Scouting, including uniformed Leaders, are volunteers - that is, they give their time for free. The Scout Leader has overall responsibility for the Scout Troop, and the activities which members take part in. The services of others are often sought for instruction in particular activities such as climbing and canoeing. The Scout Leader delegates responsibilities to Assistant Leaders and to Scouts themselves when appropriate.

Each Section (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) has its own team of Leaders and they are run independently, although links do exist between all the parts Group. The Group Scout Leader, Julian Ashcroft, provides support for all the Sections and is charged with the task of developing Scouting throughout the Group. In addition to the uniformed Leaders, there is a dedicated team of adults who are responsible for keeping the

Group running through such activities as fund raising and maintaining the Group's equipment and buildings. The efforts of these people are co-ordinated by the Group Chairman, David Higgins.

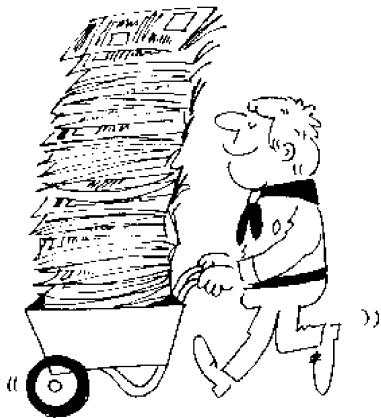


Behaviour and Discipline

One of the ingredients of a good Scout Troop is underlying discipline. All boys are expected to behave well and appropriately. This is essential and inappropriate behaviour will not be accepted. Generally, minor incidents will be dealt with by a telling off. More serious examples, such as bullying, will result in a boy's parents being contacted, and the boy possibly being asked not to attend Scouts for a period of time. These measures may seem obvious, but we feel it important that all Scouts are aware of what is expected of them. Patrol Leaders and other older Scouts in particular will be asked to set a good example to the younger members of the Troop.

Informing You

Scouts and parents are automatically sent copies of letters about camps and trips when the information becomes available. This is usually distributed at Scout Meetings, but sometimes sent by post. Please encourage your son to always give his letters to you to read with him. As well as the information about Scout Camps and Trips. A Group Newsletter is produced every three months or so.



Uniform

Scouts is a uniformed organisation. All Scouts are expected to wear uniform for Troop Meetings, when arriving and departing from events and for Parades. Boys should take pride in their uniform and do their best to look smart. Uniform consists of:

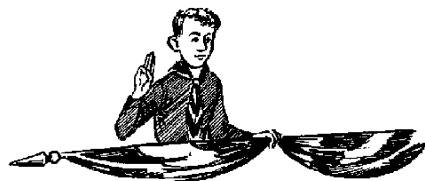
- Green Scout Shirt
- Black Scarf with yellow border
- Leather Woggle
- Black School Trousers
- Black or brown leather shoes

Uniform is available from the Island Scout Headquarters at Cunningham House, which is located on Murrays Road, Douglas. The Scout Shop is open Saturdays (10:00 - 12:00 & 14:00 - 16:00) and Tuesdays (17:30 - 19:30).

On normal Scout Meeting Nights, we do however allow Scouts to wear trainers rather than shoes and plain black jogging type trousers instead of school trousers.

Commitment and Obligations

Members of 2nd Onchan Scouts Phoenix Troop are expected to take an active role in the activities of the Troop. The following should be considered the minimum commitment from a Scout:



- Attend all Scout Meetings unless ill or away
- Take part in at least one overnight event each term
- Take part in St George's Day Parade in April
- Attend the Civic Sunday Parade in May
- Attend the Remembrance Day Service in November

A large number of events are organised for boys in the Troop. It is hoped that Scouts will want to take advantage of the activities on offer to them. If Scouts have to miss meetings due to schoolwork or sports commitments, they should talk to the Scout Leader. Scouts that miss three meetings in any month may forfeit their place in the Troop unless they contact the Scout Leader.

Parental Responsibilities

It is hoped that parents of Scouts will want to support their son's Scout Group. There are many ways in which this support can be given:

- Transport for your son to venues for camps & meetings
- In payment for trips and subscriptions
- By buying uniform

- By supporting the Group's fund raising activities
- Attending the Group's A.G.M.

The Patrol System

The Scouts in the Troop are organised into Patrols, named after animals. Each Patrol contains between 5 and 8 Scouts. New entrants to the Troop choose an existing patrol to join. Each Patrol has a Patrol Leader who is chosen by the Patrol Leaders Council in conjunction with the Scout Leader. The Patrol Leader works with the adult Leaders to plan the activities for the Troop. In addition, older Scouts help to train the younger members of the Troop. At camp, Patrols work as a unit, camping together and usually taking part in the activities on offer as a Patrol. If, for any reason, your son is unhappy in his Patrol please contact the Scout Leader.

Scout Meetings

The Scout Troop meets on a Friday night. Meetings start at 19:00 and finish at 21:00, unless otherwise informed. Scouts are asked to arrive by 18:50, so that Flag Break can take place at 19:00.

Some Meetings may take place at venues other than at the Scout Headquarters in School Road and parents are asked to make their own transport arrangements if possible. If this proves difficult then the Scout Leader can usually help find a lift. All Troop members are expected to attend regularly.



Financial Matters

Scouting costs money. The Leaders do their best to offer quality Scouting for the lowest possible cost.

Subscriptions

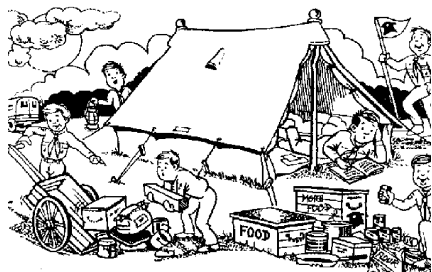
The main source of income for the Group is the Membership Subscription paid by all members. Subs are currently paid on a Term basis and are £15.00 per Term, for the first boy and £10.00 for any

other boys from the same family which are also in the Group. Subscription Forms are sent out at the first Meeting of each Term, we would ask that they are paid as promptly as possible.

Sometimes, we ask for a contribution towards activities undertaken over and above the 'normal' Troop night events. This can be a fee for a term or for a particular event. We hope parents appreciate the need for us to ask for a little extra on occasions to help pay for the extensive range of activities undertaken.

Uniform

Scouts are asked to own a complete uniform. Sometimes, second hand uniform is available. Please ask for help if required.



Camps and Trips

Payment for camps usually consists of a deposit when a Scout signs up for a trip and then a balance closer to the event. Deposits are NOT refundable. They are often used to pay for buildings and transport many months in advance. It is sometimes possible to refund the balance for a camp if a child falls ill, however, this depends on the nature of the trip and the number of participants. Without a deposit being paid, unless arrangements have been made with the Scout Leader, a place will not be reserved on ANY activity.

Financial Help

Scouting is for all children, regardless of their background. Financial help is available to allow Scouts to attend camps who would otherwise be unable to take part. Please contact a leader in the strictest of confidence if we can offer help in any way.

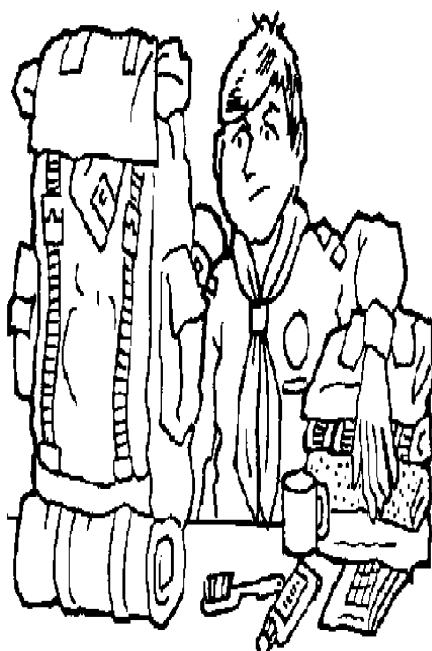
Cheques should be made payable to: *2nd Onchan Scout Group.*

Activities and Supervision

Part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities whether they be canoeing, climbing or a walk around a campsite in the dark. The Scout Association has strict rules regulating these activities and when appropriate trained instructors are used for activities. As boys get older, they are encouraged to take a leadership role in the Scout Troop. This is always done under the overall supervision of the Scout Leader, again following nationally set guidelines. Generally, camps and events run for the whole Troop are organised with the older Scouts in liaison with the Leaders, whereas smaller Patrol events are organised more by the boys. In the documentation circulated to parents about particular events, the level of supervision will always be made clear. From time to time, training will be arranged in some outdoor sports, such as canoeing, to allow children to gain their own qualifications. On all Scout events, a first aid kit is carried and most Leaders are trained in first aid.

Equipment for Camping

Most expensive camping equipment, such as tents and stoves, are owned by the Scout Group. However, Scouts are asked to own some items of camping equipment which we are unable to provide for every Scout. A full kit list is issued for camps and trips. The equipment listed below has been split into 3 categories.



Essential items:

- Sleeping bag
- Strong boots or shoes
- A set of lightweight waterproofs (jacket & trousers)
- Plastic mug/plate/bowl
- Knife/fork/spoon
- Warm jumpers

Desirable items:

- Foam sleeping mat
- Good quality torch
- Small day rucksack

Nice to have but not too important:

- A good penknife
- Warm sleeping bag (2/3 season)

Equipment for Hiking

One of the most popular activities in Scouts is hiking and mountaineering. The following list provides details of the kind of equipment Scouts should own or have access to for taking part in these activities. The equipment listed should be considered the minimum; there are other things which are useful which Scouts will learn about with experience.

For all hikes and mountain sports:

- Hiking boots
- Waterproof jacket & trousers
- Small day rucksack
- Strong 1 litre water bottle
- Whistle
- Thick socks (2 pairs)

For lightweight camping when tents are carried:

- Larger rucksack, around 40-60 litres capacity
- Fairly small sleeping bag

For winter hiking:

- Unbreakable thermos flask

Also nice, but not essential:

- Silva type compass
- Fleece jacket
- Gaiters

Badges Available

Scouts work towards many badges during their time in Scouts. The main badges worked for are the Training Awards.

There are four of these altogether, each one aimed at a particular age. The four badges are:

Scout Award (mainly for Scouts aged 10½ to 12)

Pathfinder Award (mainly for Scouts aged 12 to 13)

Explorer Award (mainly for Scouts aged 13 to 14)

Chief Scout's Award (mainly for Scouts aged 14 to 15½)

To gain the Scout Award or Explorer Award, a set series of tasks must be completed. To gain the Pathfinder or Chief Scouts Award, Scouts have some choice over the activities they must complete. In the course of our weekly meetings, Scouts will complete a number of badgework requirements automatically. However, by far the fastest way to gain badges is for boys to take part in our camps and activities. Every two months or so, a sheet showing the badgework completed so far will

be sent out to Scouts so they can see what needs to be completed to gain their badge.

Proficiency Badges

Proficiency Badges can be worked on by any Scout and there are around 70 to choose from. They offer the opportunity for a Scout or Group of Scouts to take a particular interest or skill to a higher level. The detailed requirements of all the badges are in the book called Scout Proficiency Badges. Several copies are available to borrow from the Troop library, or alternatively, the book can be purchased from the Scout Shop. Sometimes, badge courses are organised for the Troop for a particular badge. The courses may be run over several evenings or at a special weekend event.

Also, badges are sometimes worked on at camp. And finally, badges just sometimes happen. Scouts gain bits and pieces towards a particular badge by camping and taking part in activities, so it doesn't seem like work at all! Badge courses which are run on a regular basis include the Canoeist Badges and the Photographer Badge (Island

organised). Scouts may work on badges at home but **MUST** talk to the Scout Leader before they start.

Other Badges

As well as the Training Awards and Proficiency Badges, there are several other badges which can be gained.

Patrol Activity Award

This is for all Scouts and can be gained by taking an active role in their Patrol.

Leadership Award

A badge which can be gained by Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders by working with their Patrol and the adult Leaders.

Chief Scouts Challenge

A special award for older Scouts. They must plan their own expedition of three days duration in teams of 4 to 5 boys. The trip must involve a project of some kind. Specialised training is given to Scouts who attempt this Award. This badge is not unlike the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

