



Apollo Explorer Scout Unit Watford South District



EXPLORERS WELCOME PACK

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EXPLORERS

A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS
AND THEIR PARENTS

Welcome to Apollo Explorer Scout Unit

We are a highly active part of the Watford South Scouting District.

Our members are aged between 14½ and 18, and they take part and enjoy an active, exciting, fun, and adventurous programme of activities.

- We try to camp at least 4 times a year.
- We take a full and active part in all District and County events
- As a Unit we camp at least once every year for a week, and there are many opportunities for weekend camps (Including competitions and award based training). Also there is the opportunity for travel abroad with the unit, usually about every 3 or 4 years.
- We meet on Thursday nights from 19:30 – 21:30. Everyone should arrive by 19:25 as the meetings start promptly.
- Our nominal home is Beechen Grove Baptist Church, but we spend many evenings out and about at other locations.
- The programme is set termly by the Explorers themselves, and many of the evenings are run by the Explorers. You need to check your emails and the programme weekly to make sure you know where we are meeting.

Uniform

The Explorer Scout uniform consists of:-

- Brown Explorer Scout shirt & Scout activity trousers (available from The Complete Outdoors, Bourne End or from <http://shop.scouts.org.uk/>)
 - A Scout belt
 - Black school shoes. Trainers are acceptable on a Monday night.
 - A Unit Black and striped neckerchief with woggle - to be supplied when invested. Cost £10.00 Woggle, I would expect everyone to make their own.
- Explorers are asked to own a complete uniform. Second hand uniforms are occasionally available. Please ask for help if required.

Camping

We always have at least one Unit camp every year, the main one being during the School Summer Holidays. We spend a week away from the local area and normally include activities such as hill walking, climbing, sailing and a visit to a local attraction. Every 3 or 4 years we will attempt an international expedition.

Activities and Supervision

Part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities whether that 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 Explorers get older, they are encouraged to take a leadership role in the Unit. This is always done under the overall supervision of the Explorer Scout Leaders, again following nationally set guidelines.

Generally, camps and events run for the whole unit are organised with the Explorers in liaison with the leaders. Information about activities is always circulated in a letter prior to the event. From time to time, training will be arranged in some outdoor sports, such as canoeing, sailing and rock climbing to allow children to gain their own qualifications.

On all Explorer events, a first aid kit is carried and at least one leader fully trained in first aid will be in attendance.

Behaviour & Discipline

One of the ingredients of a good Explorer Unit is underlying discipline. All Explorers are expected to behave appropriately and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

Generally, minor incidents will be dealt with a telling off at the time by the leader in charge. More serious examples, such as bullying, will result in the Young Person's parents being contacted, and the Explorer possibly being suspended. These measures seem obvious, but we feel it important that all Explorers are aware of what is expected of them.

Commitment and Obligations

Members of Apollo Explorer Scout Unit are expected to take an active role in the activities of the Unit. We would hope for the following to be the minimum commitment from a member.

- Attend all Explorer meetings unless ill or away. (Special dispensation is always given at exam time)
- Take part in at least one overnight event each year.
- Take part in St George's Day Parade in April.
- Attend the Remembrance Day Service in November.
- Take part in at least one Lees Wood Crew weekend in each year (see letter enclosed with this pack).

A large number of events are organised for Explorers in the unit. It is hoped that the Explorers will want to take advantage of the activities on offer to them. If Explorers have to miss meetings due to schoolwork or sports commitment, they should talk to the Explorer Scout Leader. Explorers who miss three meetings in any month will forfeit their place in the unit unless they contact their Explorer Scout Leader before the event.

Money Matters

Making Payments

We would be grateful if any payments, whether they are by cash or cheque, are placed in a sealed envelope with the Explorer's name and the reason for the payment on the front, please pass these to the section leaders or to the group treasurer. **All cheques payable to "Watford South District Scouts"** please.

Cash Payments will need to be accompanied by a Cash Payment Form (enclosed), these are also readily available on a Thursday evening. We can also take electronic transfers, but only with a specific reference code, please see individual letters for these codes. Account Number 00012531; Sort code 40-52-40 and the account name Watford South District Scouts

Subs

Subs are collected once a term on the first Unit night. The amount is currently set at £20 per term. This money covers: -

- Badges.
- Equipment needed for Unit meetings.

Please be aware, that if payment is not received by Half Term, this rate goes up to £30.

The reference code for Subs only transfers is AESU_Sub_{explorer name}

Membership Subscriptions

Membership Subscriptions for Explorers is complicated, but it does need to be paid, once a year on or near the first of February. The amount is normally around £35-£45. This is a payment made to the District and on up to the County and to Headquarters, and covers all their admin costs as well as, most importantly, all relevant insurance premiums. For all Explorers who are also Young Leaders with a Group somewhere, they need to go on the Census with their Group, and so pay Membership Subs in the manner that their Group decides. For all those who are just Explorers, then they will receive an invoice each year for Membership Fees. These are payable directly to the District Treasurer.

Gift Aid - Please complete the Gift Aid form in this pack.

This allows us to get the income tax you paid back on the subs. This gives us approximately 25% extra per person, for just a signature on your part on all monies paid to us. Scouting is for all children, regardless of their background. Financial help is available to allow Scouts to attend camps who otherwise would be unable to take part. Please contact a leader in the strictest of confidence for help in any way

Leader Contacts

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| District Explorer Scout Commissioner | Toby Stromberg | Tel: Mbl: E-Mail: | 01923 816842 07811 276457 tobyscoutleader@gmail.com |
| Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | Ben Bateman | Tel: Mbl: E-mail: | |
| Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | David Stein | Tel: Mbl: E-mail: | |
| Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | Toby Hosker | Tel: Mbl: E-mail | tobyhosker@hotmail.co.uk |
| Young Leader Training Co- Ordinator | Jenny Stromberg | Tel: Mbl: E-mail | 01923 816842 07976 052919 Jenny.stromberg@btconnect.com |
| Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | Will Duke | Tel: Mbl: E-mail: | |
| Assistant Explorer Scout Leader | Jack Jarman | Tel: Mbl: E-mail: | |
| District Commissioner | Christine Wright | Tel: Mbl: E-mail | dc@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk |

If you have any problems or queries, please don't hesitate to contacting any of the leaders. We are there to help you and your child.

If you are interested in helping out with the Unit, or Scouting as a whole, please contact us. There are no payments for being a leader or helper, but what you get out of it is much better than that - seeing the children having fun and enjoying themselves and learning valuable life skills. (New enthusiastic members are always welcome!)

What is Scouting?

Sir Robert Baden-Powell started scouting over 100 years ago. He was a soldier, and got the idea while he was serving in the African town of Mafeking. He brought this idea home to England after the war, and tried it out with several groups of young boys from all over the country, and from different walks of life. This ended up with him organising a camp on the now famous Brownsea Island.

The old fashioned approach of 'DYB DYB DYB' and wide brimmed hats went out of the window at the review of Scouting in 1967, so we won't make your child wear silly hats unless they want to!

Scouting still remains one of the biggest movements in the world. It differs from other youth organisations in that it requires all Scouts to make a promise "The Scout Promise" and to follow a few simple rules "The Scout Law".

Scouts are the next step on from Cubs in their personal learning curve. Here, they will learn even more skills than before, as well as expanding on the ones that they already have.

The activities that your child participates in will test them to the limits both mentally and physically. As your child gets older, these will get easier and your child will want to learn new skills, and try even more testing activities. The leaders will try to encourage your child to do this as much as possible, but in the end, it is down to them to show us what they can do.

There are adult leaders on hand to help your child as much as they want us to and when they need it.

"It is a movement, because it moves forward. As soon as it stops moving, it becomes an Organisation, and is no longer Scouting. -- Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

The Scout Promise and Law

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

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

What do we do?

The Training Programme

There are three progressive badges that Explorers work toward :-

- The Chief Scout Platinum Award
- The Chief Scout Diamond Award
- The Queens Scout Award, this is the highest award you can earn as a scout and is very prestigious, as well as being very difficult to obtain. You will need to work for it.

In addition to these there are many Proficiency Badges, the Explorer Belt and the Young Leader Scheme which culminates in the YL Belt.

How do I find out about these activities/events?

The emailing service tends to be via your child, but I am more than happy to add mums and dads to the list. There should be an email coming out each week detailing and reminding about that week's meeting, so they need to be email addresses that are checked regularly. The Unit also has a Facebook page (closed group) and once you are invested you can apply to be part of the group. Most weeks the email details get posted to this group as well. Camps and trips have letters both emailed out and sent out, but these do need returning in a paper format as mostly there will be a section that needs a signature. Most information can also be found on our website:

apolloexplorers.webs.com

Do You Want to Help?

Your child may come home from a Unit meeting and say, "I need to know how to build an open fire for camp!"

Your child expects you to be interested and will get much more out of Scouting if you are prepared to offer your support. There are lots of ways in which you can help, for example:-

- Helping prepare refreshments for a Unit event
 - Helping transport Explorers to events and outings or move kit to camp
 - Supporting the Unit's social events, Annual General Meeting, and Open Evenings
 - Joining the District Executive Committee to help them raise funds for the Unit.
-

The District Executive Committee

Each year, the District elects an Executive Committee consisting of a number of parents and various Leaders in the District to carry out the day-to-day tasks of running the District and Unit. They are responsible for purchasing equipment and maintaining Unit property. The function of the District Executive Committee is also to support and help the ESL carry out his or her role in maintaining an effective and successful Explorer Unit.

What do you gain from helping?

You will have the opportunity to meet a variety of new people and make a real contribution to help your local community. Please do not be shy to offer your help and if you feel you have any skills to offer to the Explorer Unit please contact your ESL. By playing your part and supporting your child you will share the enjoyment, friendship and fun of the Family of Scouting.

Health/Contact Information

Below, you will find a form; a similar form is also issued before each and every camp. It is important that you complete this form fully and honestly - no matter how small or trivial the problem. It is important that we are able to contact the parents should the need arise. I recommend you fill out the form and keep it safe, it makes filling them out so much easier. You will be asked to fill in a new form every time we go away.

Apollo Explorer Scout Unit, Watford South District

EXPLORER PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

NAME.....

Please fill in this form and return it with the payment asap. This information is needed for your child to have a happy and safe camp and every effort will be made to that end. Toby and other Leaders are fully qualified first aiders with the St Johns Ambulance and Red Cross, and will be coming with us.

Has your child been immunised against tetanus within the last 5 years? YES/NO

Has your child any allergies or sensitivities eg. Penicillin, Plasters, Disinfectant etc.? YES/NO
If YES please give details on the back.

Will your child need, or be taking any medicine during the camp? YES/NO
If YES please:

a) fill in details on back

b) please inform Toby of the details and give him the medicines with clear instructions, before the camp.

Does your child have any condition that we should know of eg. *Bed Wetting, Sleep Walking, Hyperactivity?* YES/NO
If YES please give details on back.

Does your child require any special diet for medical or religious reasons? YES/NO
If YES please give details on back?

His/Her National Health No is

Name and address of family doctor

Please tell us if your child comes into contact with any infectious diseases within 3 weeks prior to the event.

In the event of any illness or accident requiring emergency hospital treatment, I authorise Mr T. Stromberg or the CAMP LEADER (from the Apollo Explorer Scout Unit, to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital if the delay required to obtain my own signature was considered inadvisable by the doctor or surgeon concerned.

The First aid kit is the same as before so rather than have you all view the contents again, if you are happy with them then signing below will also authorise any leader or assistant to administer any first aid that they feel fit - from our first aid kit (excluding the Nurofen and aspirin). if you have not seen the first aid kit, please see Toby on a Unit night before signing below.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Address

Date

Contact address during camp

Tel number/s

Gift Aid Declaration

giftaid it

Name of charity:

Apollo Explorer Scout Unit, Watford South District

Please treat as Gift Aid donations:

- The enclosed gift of £ _____ OR
- All gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations OR
- All gifts of money that I have made in the past four years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Please tick the appropriate box

Donor's details

Title: _____ Initial(s): _____ Surname: _____

Home address:

Postcode: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), that I donate to, will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Please notify The Scout Association if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

Apollo Explorer Scout Unit Registered Charity N°302606

District Explorer Scout 'Commissioner: Toby Stromberg

Woodland Cottage, 89 Sutton Road, Watford, WD17 2QG Tel 01923 816842 website <http://www.scouts.org.uk>

Patron HM The Queen **President** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout** Bear Grylls

APOLLO EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT WATFORD SOUTH DISTRICT SCOUTS



LEES WOOD CREW

To all Explorers, and Parents

I would just like to explain to everyone exactly what is involved with Crew at Lees Wood.

This campsite, behind Wippendell Woods, is half owned by our District. We have a responsibility to look after it and to run it. That responsibility is 1 weekend in 8, to be there as a crew to assist the Warden. We as Explorers have committed to this 1 in 8 programme, and I would expect all Apollo Explorers to attend whenever they can, and at least 2 or 3 times a year.

Crew are expected to turn up from around 6pm on a Friday evening, and to be there until the middle of the afternoon on Sunday. I appreciate people are busy, but coming to Crew is a commitment we all need to stick to. I would expect everyone to be there by 9.30pm on Friday night and to stay until the last campers have left on the Sunday, usually about 3pm. If you need to leave for a few hours for a lesson or to go to church, this is fine but you will be expected back after a few hours. Please make sure you can confirm for the whole weekend, or speak to me to discuss. I do not accept people leaving early on Sunday as that is our busiest time and we all want to go home.

I appreciate there are pressures of school work and homework for Explorer age young people, and so am happy to enforce a "Friday evening study period" so that those staying for the weekend will have the opportunity to do their homework. There may even be the opportunity of help from others if there are a few working together.

The job of Crew is to look after the campsite and any campers there at the weekend. Tasks in the past have included fence building, tree planting, site clearances, toilet cleaning, running the shop, running activities and wide-games as well as wood chopping and picking up litter. In fact any job that comes up tends to be given to crew. All jobs are supervised and any Risk Assessments are done by the Warden and his staff.

Crew have their own cabin to stay in, and it is fully fitted with two bunk rooms, a kitchen, a living room, a dining room, a toilet and a log fire, as well as TV and a music centre. The beds in the bunk rooms are supplied with mattresses and sheets, but you will need to bring your sleeping bag and pillow. The bunk rooms are normally allocated male and female, unless we have all boys/girls attending.

All you need to bring with you is old clothes to work in, old boots, warm clothes and waterproofs in the winter, and a torch is always handy.

There will always be a leader from our district in camp when we have Explorers on crew, and they will normally do all the cooking as well. We will be required to supply our own food for the weekend, but this is normally done by the Leader in charge. We have an agreement in place that if you stay for any meals, you pay £10.00 towards food. Obviously the longer you stay, and so the more meals you stay for, the better this one off price becomes.

NB; Due to instances of Explorers booking themselves into Crew, and then not showing up, all food monies are now payable on the Thursday night before. No payment, no go. £10 Cash Please

You will need to complete a yearly Permission form to come to Crew, but please do let me know if any medical circumstances change throughout the year.

The Dates for Crew this year, 2017, are...

Jan 27/28/29
March 17/18/19
May 5/6/7
June 23/24/25
Aug 11/12/13
Sep 29 to Oct 1
Nov 17/18/19
Jan 5/6/7 -2018

Lees Wood is located at the top of Fir Tree Hill, Chandlers Cross, and is found by going to the end of Grove Mill Lane, turning left, then left again after 200mtrs, just as you go into the trees.

On a final note, please can I remind all Explorers, that it is both illegal and against Scout Association rules for ANY Explorer Scout to consume alcohol whilst on a scout event.

Any questions, then just ask.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Stromberg'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'T' and a long, wavy line extending to the right.

Toby Stromberg
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Apollo Explorer Unit Watford South District



EXPLORER PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

NAME.....

Lees Wood Crew 2017

CRB Clearance and Membership number – required if over 18

Please fill in this form and return it with the payment asap. This information is needed for your child to have a happy and safe camp and every effort will be made to that end. Toby and Jenny are fully qualified First Aiders with the St Johns Ambulance and Red Cross.

Has your child been immunised against tetanus within the last 5 years? YES/NO

Has your child any allergies or sensitivities eg. Penicillin, Plasters, Disinfectant etc.? YES/NO
If YES please give details on the back.

Will your child need, or be taking any medicine during the camp? YES/NO
If YES please:

- a) fill in details on back
- b) please inform Toby of the details and give him the medicines with clear instructions, before the camp.

Does your child have any condition that we should know of eg. *Bed Wetting, Sleep Walking, Hyperactivity?* YES/NO
If YES please give details on back.

Does your child require any special diet for medical or religious reasons? YES/NO
If YES please give details on back?

His/Her National Health No is

Name and address of family doctor

Please tell us if your child comes into contact with any infectious diseases within 3 weeks prior to the event.

In the event of any illness or accident requiring emergency hospital treatment, I authorise Mr. T. Stromberg or the CAMP LEADER (Apollo Explorer Scout Unit), to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital if the delay required to obtain my own signature was considered inadvisable by the doctor or surgeon concerned.

The First Aid kit is available for you to view, and by signing below you give consent for its contents to be administered as and when is seen fit by the qualified first aider (excluding the Neurofen and Aspirin and other medication). If you have not seen the first aid kit, please see Toby to request to view it.

Signature of Parent/GuardianDate.....

Address

Contact address during camp

Tel number /s

Apollo Explorer Unit Watford South District



Cash Payment Form



Name

Amount

£ _____

Reason

Signed

Date

Apollo Explorer Unit Watford South District



Cash Payment Form



Name

Amount

£ _____

Reason

Signed

Date

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