

**Join our team of
go-getters,
doers
and
give-it-a-goers**

**Our guide to helping us provide
great scouting to more
young people**



Scouts
South London



Life is an adventure

As scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more.

Each week, we give young people the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed, now and in the future. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience – skills that have helped scouts become social workers, teachers, doctors, engineers, fire fighters, bus drivers, nurses, foster parents and olympians (to name but a few): In short they are the people who make our society work. Scouts are all around you. You will know them by their values: cooperation, respect and integrity that they learnt when they were young.

When our members memorised their scout promise on a cold weekday night, they are not just joining a youth club, they are choosing a code which many of them will follow throughout their lives.

They are making a choice to live a meaningful life, full of fun, adventure and friendship and to put others before themselves.



What scouts do

As scouts young people take part in an exciting programme of activities from kayaking to coding. They develop character skills like resilience, initiative and tenacity; employability skills such as leadership, teamwork and problem solving; and practical skills like cooking and first aid. And research proves it really works. A recent report says scouts are 17% more likely to show leadership skills and work well in teams. They're a third more likely to support their communities too.

Our first three age groups, we call these sections, make-up a scout group. These are:

BEAVERS

6 to 8 years

Beaver scouts are the youngest members of our scouting family. Easily recognised by their turquoise sweatshirts, they enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They usually meet once a week in a beaver scout colony. They also go on sleepovers which is often the first time a young person spends a night away from home.

cubs

8 to 10½ years

There are loads of fun things to do as a cub scout. Cubs get a chance to try lots of different activities like swimming, music, exploring, computing and collecting. Cubs also get to go on trips and days out, to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm. Sometimes they will be able to go camping with the rest of their cub pack. This means they sleep in a tent and do loads of outdoor activities.

SCOUTS

10½ to 14 years

The scout section is about spending time with friends, working as part of a team and participating fully in the adventure of life. Scouts take part in a balanced programme that helps them to find out about the world around them. Being outdoors is important and half the programme is given over to taking part in scouting skills, such as camping and cooking as well as adventurous activities, from abseiling to yachting.

We also have two sections for older teenagers and young adults, these are:

EXPLORERS

14 to 18 years

Explorer Scouts meet as members of an Explorer Scout Unit. Their programme is 'high adventure'. From snow sports to environmental projects, camps, hikes, expeditions and international trips, explorers have a key role in deciding what they do. Not all Units meet every week, because it's members will often be out and about at weekends or in the holidays doing activities. There will also be times when the young people will be busy doing other things such as exams and being an explorer scout will have to fit around these.

network

18 to 25 years

Network members are part of their local network unit, they take part in activities which they normally organise themselves. They meet when they want to, perhaps weekly, maybe monthly. One week, they might be teaching climbing to some young people. Another, it'll be an informal meeting at someone's house to start planning next summer's overseas expedition. The scout network is what they make of it!

So, who makes this happen?

It really goes without saying that adults are the lynchpin of scouting. All our adults are 'leaders' in the sense of 'leading to secure the future of young people'. Without adult 'leaders' scouting would simply not exist. Scouting is about everyday people working as leaders and supporters in their communities, giving young people confidence, a sense of purpose, life values and outdoor skills that are hard to find anywhere else – we call this 'skills for life!'

Adults in scouting are from all walks of life. The one thing they share is the enjoyment of working together and helping young people reach their potential.

Part of scouting's modern appeal to adults is our approach to flexible volunteering, it's great when people can make a regular commitment to help to provide weekly scouting to young people, but we know it's not always possible. People nowadays have busy, often unpredictable lives – meaning that they can't commit set hours, on set days.

All our volunteering opportunities are based on a flexible volunteering model, meaning that if you are unable to make the meeting its fine, we don't expect everyone to be available every week. Scouting is still scouting, whether you're involved once a week, once or twice a month, every six or eight weeks or even once or twice a year.

We're scouts and everyone's welcome here. We'd love you to join our team of go-getters, doers and give-it-a-goers. Find out how you can make 'beaver, cub or scout nights' even better. Everyone has something to offer to support local scouting, So, whatever your age or ability we have a role that will suit you.

There's never been a better time to get involved and help inspire our members to be the leaders of the future. So why not help us give young people the skills they need to succeed and find out how scouts can be just as rewarding for you.

The aim of this guide is to give you some insight into the different ways you can support local scouting and we hope, inspire you to get involved. So, let's take a look at the ways you can join our adventure...



Leadership Roles



Being a leader in the scouts: 'It's the best non-paid job in the world'

Our adult leaders are the people who make scouting happen!

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.

These are fun and rewarding roles and re ideal if you enjoy working with young people. Overtime you will see members grow in confidence and ability as they learn from the programme you help run.



Working with 6 to 8-year olds as a beaver leader

Do you enjoy having fun and using your imagination? Can you inspire young people aged between 6 and 8 years old to focus their energy and reach their full potential?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, beaver leaders work together to plan and deliver an exciting programme of outdoor activities, crafts, community projects, games, challenges and even for many, their first night away from home at a beaver sleepover!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as decided between the leadership team

Helping with beavers as a colony assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a colony assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as beavers in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, colony assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: at least one weekly meeting a month



Working with 8 to 10½-year olds as a cub leader

Do you have a passion for getting outside and trying new things? Could you encourage and lead young people aged 8 to 11 years old to discover and learn through excitement, teamwork and adventure?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, cub scout leaders work together to plan and run an exciting programme of outdoor activities, games, crafts, exploring the outdoors, community projects, challenges and the excitement of a few days away in a tent!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as decided between the leadership team

Helping with cubs as a pack assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a pack assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as cubs in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, pack assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: at least one weekly meeting a month



Working with 10 to 14-year olds as a scout leader

Can you make it possible for young people aged 10 to 14 years old to experience life changing adventure? Could you support them in making decisions, taking the lead and developing independence, confidence and skills for life?

Working as part of a team of adult volunteers, scout leaders work together to plan and run an exciting programme of outdoor activities, community projects, games, challenges, learning about global issues, camps and even sometimes international trips!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as decided between the leadership team

Helping with scouts as a troop assistant

Our programme, outdoor activities, day trips and residential experiences all require a certain ratio of adults to young people. So, by helping whenever you can, as a troop assistant, you could enable more young people to participate as scouts in the adventure of scouting!

Importantly, troop assistants provide invaluable support to our leaders, working as part of a rota for meetings, you can help by collecting the weekly subs or by making refreshments and helping to tidy away which means that the leaders have more time to deliver the programme to the young people.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: at least one weekly meeting a month



Supporter Roles



Not all roles in scouting involve working directly with our young people.

All our scout groups have a group committee, officially called the group executive committee, the committee plays a key role in the management of a group. The members make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality scouting can be delivered to young people in the group's sections. The committee plays a very important part in the running of a scout group. In fact, they could not function properly without it!

Although the 'executive' bit in our committee's title makes it sound very formal, it is not like that at all - our committee is made up of people like you! All our committee members have different skills to offer, come from different backgrounds and have varying experiences. This helps to ensure a variety of perspectives and a more rounded and effective committee.

Let's take a look at how you could get involved in managing or supporting a local scout group 'behind the scenes'...

These are rewarding roles and are ideal for people who would like to support the growth and development of scouting, young people and the group's leadership team but not by working directly with young people.



Every scout group needs a group manager!

We prepare young people with skills for life. But who supports the volunteers who make this happen?

Known as the group scout leader (or GSL), the group manager works in a small team to ensure the effective operation of the group. A scout group normally consists of a beaver scout colony, cub scout pack and a scout troop. The group also has a team of trustees which we call the group executive committee.

The GSL is responsible for ensuring that the group is well run and that each section has a team of appointed adults who are well inducted and supported and provide an exciting weekly programme to the young people in the sections of the group.

The GSL coordinates all the leaders in the scout group. This means that it is the ideal role for someone who is interested in working with adults and having contact with young people.

The GSL works closely with the group chair and the members of the group executive committee and there is lots of support provided online and by other volunteers.

The GSL doesn't need to be around at the groups section meetings each week. So, this is a great role for someone that really wants flexibility.

We're not going to pretend this is easy. This is an important role. With big rewards.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: around 3 hours a week



Provide support in the background as a group chair

Do you have good organisational skills and enjoy motivating a team? Then you could be the chair of a group committee!

The chair manages the meetings and works with the group's group scout leader to ensure the group operates in accordance with the policies and rules of the scout association.

This is the ideal role for someone who does not necessarily wish to work directly with young people but would like to help to support the development of scouting in the local community.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month



Help keep track of our money as a group treasurer

Do you have a good head for numbers without losing sight of the big picture? If so, you could use your talents to help transform the lives of young people in our local community.

Group treasurers support the group scout leader and the members of the group committee by keeping track of the group's money. If you've got an eye for figures, then why not support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team by taking on this vital role.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month

Take the notes at our committee meetings as a group secretary

Do you like keeping paperwork in order? Do you have a great eye for detail and more than your fair share of common sense? If so, we could use your talents to help transform the lives of young people in our local community.

Our group secretary assists our group scout leader and group chair in the effective running of our group by providing light admin. support. This includes recording the actions decided at our group committee meetings and writing the occasional email.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 hours a month

Be part of a group committee as a committee member

Committee members play a key role in the management of a group. They take part in discussions; help make decisions and carry out occasional administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality scouting can be delivered to young people in the group's sections.

If you would like to help scouting but don't have the time to be a leader or helper, then our group committee is a great way of helping our group with minimal time commitment.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: 3 or 4, 2-hour meetings a year

Provide support when its needed as an active support member

Anyone over the age of 18 can join our group active support unit. Scout active support forms a large part of the “backbone” of scouting.

Providing active support is about being part of a network of people that support scouting in our group and means helping out as and when needed on your terms.

It could be to help run an activity badge for young people, helping with paperwork, catering for events or camps, running projects, helping with transport, assisting with day trips, activities or anything else that would support scouting.

Everyone has something to offer to support local scouting, whatever your age or ability.

This is a very flexible and informal way to be involved in supporting local scouting and is ideal if you can't make a firm commitment but want to support the growth and development of young people and our leadership team. We know that life can be busy, so we're all about flexibility: You really can give as much or as little of your time as you choose on your terms!

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as an when you can



Keep equipment in order as an equipment manager

Can't help coiling a loose rope when you see one? Do you always insist on packing away a tent the right way? If so, we need your keen eye!

We need a positive, practical person to be our group equipment manager to maintain our equipment and look after our stores. You'll join a friendly team committed to helping change the lives of young people.

No specific time commitment is required, and the role is flexible enough to fit around you. You don't need to know anything about scouting - we provide a warm welcome, a sociable network and a short online training module to help you get started as well as lots of ongoing support.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: as an when you can



Help spread the word about the adventure of scouting as a playground champion

Do you regular chat to the other parents in the school playground while you wait for your child to come out of school? If you do, then this could be just the role for you!

The role of playground champion is easy - it is simply spreading the word about our Scout group and the opportunities for young people to join in the fun.

We will provide you with leaflets to pass on and a general crib-sheet about scouting so you know what to say and have all the information you need to hand.

Estimated time required to fulfil the role: when you're at the school gate!



Finally

Thank you for choosing to give some of your spare time to scouting. We really hope you have found this guide inspiring and useful. If you can help in a way we haven't thought of then please do get in touch!

As we said in our introduction, we know that life can be busy, so remember we are all about flexibility: You really can make the role you choose fit around your family, work and other commitments and give as much time as you choose on your terms! Whether you can spare one hour a week, a month or a term, it's far easier to provide exciting activities at our meetings if we have your support. But one thing is for sure, with your help we can continue to ensure we provide young people in your local community with skills for life.

You don't need any previous experience of scouting. What's more important is your own skills and experience as well as empathy with our mission and values. We provide a warm welcome, a sociable network, a relevant level of easy to access training and lots of online resources to help with the planning of activities as well as lots of ongoing face to face support.

Being part of scouting is great fun and it goes without saying that helping young people can be one of the most rewarding things you can do, plus it also looks great on your CV!

Next steps...

The best way to start getting involved is to speak to the person who gave you this guide and they will be able to tell you more and help you get started. Alternatively, drop us an email us at jointheadventure@southlondonscouts.org.uk or give us a call on 0843 289 1548 and we will be able to point you in the right direction and get you started – so let's talk!



Do you know...

- Scouting is a charity. All our adults are volunteers and the majority have a full time job and family
- About half our volunteers are female
- Not all adults in scouting wear uniform or work directly with young people
- All our volunteers are covered by a comprehensive insurance while taking part in scouting activities
- There are over 30,000 young people waiting to join scouting. The main reason for this large waiting list is that we need more adults to help us meet the demand for scouting across the UK.

How we operate...

All our adults operate within the key polies of the association:

- Anti bullying - bullying of any type is unacceptable
- Spiritual - understand and observe the scout promise
- Equal opportunities - no young person or adult should experience discrimination
- Safety - provide scouting in a safe manner
- Development - make scouting available to all communities
- Safeguarding - safeguard the welfare of all members



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