

April 2024 Newsletter

Dear Volunteer



County Lead Volunteer

Thanks to Claire for her organisation of this year's County dinner. It was wonderful to be involved in presenting several awards and listening to the Queen's Scouts and King's Scout recipients about their experiences. We recognised 470 years of voluntary commitment to our volunteers. It was delightful to have HM Lord Lieutenant at the event and also to have some Mayors and Councillors at the event.

The following week, I had the pleasure of representing the County at the day of Celebration and Achievement at Windsor Castle. It was wonderful to meet up with recipients of bravery and good service awards. Matthew House was involved in planning, organising and delivering the service in St George's Chapel, Windsor for Queen's Scout and King's Scout Award recipients.

Ben Leonard Inquest Prevention of Future Deaths Report Response from The Scout Association

Please take the time to read the 42 page document regarding The Scouts response to the Coroner regarding the death of Explorer Scout Ben Leonard. It helps to put into perspective why we are encouraging and cajoling people to complete their training within the required time. We all have a responsibility to ensure our training is up to date. I know that Lead Volunteers in Groups and Districts, Training Advisors and Local Training Managers endeavour to get people to complete their training within the stipulated time period. It is for our own safety that we all complete our training and keep our mandatory training up to date.

First Aid training

Due to the very low attendance figures for the Half Day module 10A part 2 & 10B sessions it has been decided that from September these sessions will be stopped. To accommodate the increased demand for first aid training due to the changes in Leaders Training (Growing Roots), we will run full-day sessions on September 14th, October 13th & November 17th.

If you would like to book attendance on one of these sessions, please complete and submit a Course Application form to the County Office.

District Lead Volunteer for Vale of Aylesbury

Julian Cochran has joined the County Leadership Team as District Lead Volunteer for the Vale of Aylesbury. Julian is going to work alongside Mark Rutland in a joint capacity until Mark formally steps down as District Lead Volunteer at the end of the summer. Mark has been instrumental in looking after the Vale of Aylesbury over the years and has started to shape the District and form the new team structure that Julian will continue to roll out.

Mark will be staying on as a member of the County Leadership Team when he steps down from his District Lead Volunteer role and will continue to provide support to the County with his many years of experience.

Soap box challenge

Have you thought about making a soap box and participating in a challenge? This looks good fun and a challenge. For further information about this event, please visit <https://kophilclimb.org.uk/visitor-info/soapbox/>

Young Leaders

Safety and Safeguarding of our young leaders and the young people they work with is vital, concerns have been raised that there are still Young Leaders working in groups who are not registered with the District Explorer Scout provision and have not completed Module A within the 3 month time frame required in POR.

As a reminder

- 1) All Young Leaders working in the Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout section who are between the ages of 13.5 and 18 must be members of a Young Leaders Unit, and section leaders need to ensure that their details are passed on to the person that manages this within their District so that they can ensure they are registered with the unit and can be supported with their training.
- 2) Any non-scout member young person acting as a Young Leader for their DofE volunteering section must also be registered with the District young leader unit and complete Module A.
- 3) If you are having difficulty arranging Module A for your YL then please speak to your DESC/14 - 24 lead/DC or County Office. There are several Districts across the County that run Module A on a regular basis plus we can do to help facilitate this including running Module A online, so it should be possible for every Young Leader to access the training within the 3 months specified in POR.

Great Orme – Prevention of future Deaths.

HQs are now sharing their response to the Prevention of Future Deaths report following the inquest into the Great Orme incident, this can be found at https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2024/may/Scouts-responds-to-Prevention-of-Future-Death-report?utm_campaign=2476510_Sharing%20website%20response%20-%20CCs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scouts&dm_i=31ME,1H2VY,8ZDQX5,5V95N,1

We appreciate there will be many questions around this and the media and parents/carers will take an interest. Please divert any questions you may get from the media to HQs and parents/carers to the link above.

A top up to the safety training is imminent and all members will be required to do this. More information will follow from HQs as and when it is available.

Day of Celebration and Achievement

Would you like to be involved in the day of Celebration and Achievement at Windsor Castle next year? The Scouts are looking for six people to be in the Colour Party and four people to be involved with planning and delivering the service. If you want to know more information, please contact Matthew House as he was involved in planning and delivering the service this year. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/windsor/take-part/take-centre-stage/>

If you would like to be a section leader and lead a Group of King's Scouts onto the Quadrangle, please look at the hyperlink <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/windsor/take-part/take-centre-stage/section-leaders/>

Fundays and Takeover days

Fundays and takeover days are back at Gilwell. The fundays are for Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs. The takeover days are for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. Scarefest is back in October for Scouts and Explorers. For more information please visit <https://www.scouts.org.uk/search?term=fundays%20gilwell>

Youth Advocates

Being a youth advocate is a brilliant opportunity to gain skills, work with staff at HQ and help shape the policy for the future. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you think would be brilliant in the role please read and complete the necessary form. If you want any further information about being a youth advocate, please speak to Ben Pease as he is currently one. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/uk-headquarters-volunteering/join-our-national-volunteer-team/uk-youth-advocates/>

Recruiting and welcoming volunteers

The hyperlink below gives you many tips about trying to recruit new volunteers. It includes pieces about recruiting volunteers for Squirrels and using social media. I will add that paid Facebook and Instagram can be successful. Posting on community Facebook pages can get to a wide array of people in the Community. An example of this is that there is a community Facebook page with 8.6k members and in Buckingham one of their Community Facebook pages has 20.k members. [We heard from you: Top tips on how to welcome volunteers to new sections | Blog | Scouts](#)

Keeping children and young people safe.

As we all know safety is important. It is important that we have written risk assessments for all of our activities. We need to ensure children, young people, volunteers and parents/carers are aware of any risks involved in activities. Whether it's cooking, playing a game or going out on a muddy walk there will always be risks. There is a push from HQ on the subject. We shall be providing some information for you to use, especially if you have new volunteers.

Guidance on risk assessments can be found at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/risk-assessments/example-risk-assessments/>

Beaverree

Under the Sea is being held at PACCAR on 8 June 2024. Information has been issued to Beaver Leaders and Assistant Beaver Leaders. If you haven't received the information, please contact Claire at the County Office. This has now been opened to Squirrels and Cubs. If you are interested in taking some Squirrels and/or Cubs to the event, please contact Claire for further information.

Big Help Out

The Big Help Out will be held over the weekend 7 to 9 June. This is a great opportunity to recruit volunteers for a variety of different roles. These roles could be working with young children, teenagers, trustees, maintenance, fundraising etc. The attached hyperlink should help you in planning an event. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/national-events/the-big-help-out/>

Changes to POR

As mentioned at the County conference for those that attended, there should be some updates to POR (Policy organisation & Rules) chapter 15 coming out in the next few weeks and further slight changes to Trustee boards. Most Groups and all Districts have now already moved from Executive committees to Trustee boards. These follow-up changes are primarily around trustee selection and length of term they can be Trustees. This has meant some changes to the standard constitution and HQ have updated the suggested example agendas and scripts for AGMs. These changes came into effect from 1st of April and need to be implemented with each Group and District AGM this year (after 1st April).

Essentially the steps each Group and District Trustee Board need to adopt to make the changes are:

- Follow updated AGM agenda and script.
- Adopt updated constitution at AGM (In updated POR released mid-March)
- Current Trustee Board needs to agree and implements local selection process (Webpage guidance already available-see attached document for link and details)
- Discuss and agree with current Secretary the role they will take on from the AGM (Trustee or Administrator or both) and reflect this on Compass. (More details in the attached document)

In readiness for transformation to the new digital system later in the year, please ensure all Trustee details are correct on Compass and that all Trustees have completed the required online training modules.

Please feel free to share this with other Trustees as needed to ensure its local implementation in all Groups and Districts, and arrange to discuss the updates etc at your next Trustee board/Group/District meetings.

Transformation

With Transformation changes taking place this year, everyone needs to be aware of how the changes will start to look for them in their role. District and County teams are working hard to plan and roll out some of these changes. If you are unsure about the changes please talk to your Group Scout Leader (Lead Volunteer) or District team about exactly how it might look for you, or email questions to transformation@bucks-scouts.org.uk. There are many links and other pieces of information on the County website.

Part of the transformation process will be changes to our adult training scheme; much of this will come in as we move to our new digital tools. Correct migration of adults' training records is one of the areas we can work on now in preparation for transformation.

Mandatory ongoing learning

Each month the District Commissioners receive a (non) compliance report. This details people whose mandatory training, (First Aid, Safety and Safeguarding) needs renewing within the next month. Volunteers on the list are given until the end of that month to complete the relevant training. If they do not complete it, then the DC has to either close their role, or retire or suspend them. HQ is tightening up on the training, so please ensure yours is up to date.

If your first aid is either out of date or is due for renewal within the next few months, please sign up for a first aid course as a matter of urgency. If volunteers do not have a first aid qualification, there is the distinct possibility that a mutually agreed restriction (MAR) will be put in place and this is likely to mean that the person cannot help at any event where people under the age of 18 are involved. If the first aid course is still not completed this could result in a suspension or closure of role.

PL and APL camp

A Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader camp is being held on 15 and 16 June at Braid Wood campsite. Please contact Lucy Parker regarding the event.

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