



Information for Parents

Welcome

Hello and welcome to 2nd Upminster (St. Laurence) Scout Group.

We hope that joining our Scout Group will be the start of a very enjoyable time for you and your child! Scouting prides itself on being accessible to all ages, cultures and abilities and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Group.

Scouting numbers nationally are on the increase. In Hornchurch District alone, there are over 1,500 young people, and the programme of activities offers challenge and adventure to them all from age six upwards. The Scouting formula is simple: using volunteer Adult Leaders and basic facilities, Scouting helps young people from all backgrounds to develop universally valued qualities of trust, empathy, confidence, integrity and a spirit of adventure. Life skills are learned to help young people become tomorrow's happiest, healthiest and most productive citizens, some of whom will be tomorrow's leaders.

Membership

Our Scout Group has five sections – 2 Beaver Scout Colonies (Gridiron and Holden), 2 Cub Packs Scouts (Derham and Tampa Bay) and one Scout Troop – and provides weekly Scouting activities for members from age six to 14 when they are encouraged to transfer to one of the District's Explorer Scout Units where they can continue Scouting until they reach 18. At this point they may become members of the Scout Network.

Beavers are usually aged between six and eight years old, Cubs between eight and 10½ and Scouts between 10½ and 14 but age flexibility can make it possible for Beavers to join at five and three quarters and Cubs and Scouts to join or leave their usual section six months earlier or later. Members automatically move from one section to the next at the appropriate age, usually at one of the Church Parades held during the year.

We are a Church sponsored group and our members are required to attend the following Church Parades and special services:

- Mothering Sunday (March or April)
- St. George's Day (April)
- June Church Parade
- Harvest Festival (September)
- Remembrance Sunday (November)
- Christingle (December)

If you do not want your child to attend Church Parades we can put you in touch with an open Group that will not require participation in Church activities.

Data protection

To enable us to operate effectively and communicate with you and your child we will keep personal data including names, addresses, family contacts etc., sensitive information such as health details and details of your child's progress through Scouting.

To hold this information, we need your explicit consent and this can be given by completing and signing an Application for Membership & Personal Information Form which also covers consent for photographs to be taken and used.

2nd Upminster (St Laurence) Scouts
St Laurence Church
Corbets Tey Road
Upminster RM14 2BB

www.2ndupminsterscouts.org.uk

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Weekly meetings

Our sections usually meet in the halls at St. Laurence Church on the following evenings during school term times:

Gridiron Beavers	Tuesday	6:00 – 7:00
Holden Beavers	Thursday	6:00 – 7:00
Derham Cubs	Monday	6:15 – 7:30
Tampa Bay Cubs	Thursday	6:15 – 7:45
Scouts	Tuesday	7:15 – 9:00

However, please speak to the Section Leaders to confirm exact dates for the start and end of term and any half-term breaks. If your child misses a meeting please contact your Section Leader to check if anything is needed for the next meeting and to confirm the location.

Facebook page and website

The Group has a private Facebook page (2nd Upminster Scout Group) that parents and carers can join upon request, and a website www.2ndUpminsterScouts.org.uk

Child Protection

The Scout Association has a clear policy to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. All Leaders are subject to background checks both by the Disclosure & Barring Service (Formerly the Criminal Records Bureau)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service> and The Scout Association's own database.

Involvement of Parents and Carers in Group Activities

Many of our Scouting activities provide opportunities for parents and carers to be involved; in fact, without this help we would not be able to run the Group.

We actively encourage parents and carers to become more involved either in one of the Sections or on the administration side. If this is something that interests you, please talk to one of the Leaders who can advise you on different roles available and what roles require a DBS check.

There are a wide variety of roles which need to be undertaken in all areas of the Group and many of these roles require very little time and do not require a regular weekly commitment.

Security at Meetings and Events

Parents and carers are reminded that children should not be left at meetings or events until they have ascertained that two leaders are present.

Young people will not be allowed to leave at the end of activities until collected by a responsible adult. If you want your child to leave on their own you will have to complete and sign a form authorising this.

The Beavers and Cubs sections using the main hall operate a 'one-way' system when collecting youngsters; please enter the Main Hall from the foyer, collect your child and exit through the side door. If all parents and carers support this, we can ensure that the children leave with the goodies they have made, their letters for you, but above all, with an adult.

Uniform

You do not need to buy any uniform for when your child first starts attending; suitable casual clothes and footwear will be fine. Once they have decided that Scouting is for them, they will need to wear the official uniform so they can be formally invested into the Group. The leaders will tell you which items of uniform are required for their section and where you can get it. We try to recycle second hand uniform where possible; if this interests you please speak to your Section Leader.

Subscriptions

All Leaders, helpers and the Group Executive run our Scout Group on an entirely voluntary basis but we still need to charge subscriptions. These subscriptions meet the costs of holding meetings, purchasing and maintaining equipment and Group administration. Subscriptions also cover District and County contributions and the Scout Association capitation. A separate charge is normally made for special events, camps and other outings.

Subscriptions are payable from when you and your child decide to join the Scout Group and will be approximately a month from when your child first visited. We charge £13.50 per month throughout the year which is payable by direct debit using the GoCardless payments system. (GoCardless is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Payment Services Regulations 2009.)

We are a registered charity so we ask you to complete a Gift Aid declaration which will enable us to turn each £1 of subscription into £1.25, at no additional cost to you.

Please complete the combined Gift Aid declaration form included with this pack.

Financial hardship

If you have difficulty paying membership subscription or additional charges relating to outings, camps etc. please speak to your Section Leader or the Group Scout Leader as financial assistance may be available.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of Scouting at 2nd Upminster please speak to the appropriate Section Leader or contact the Group Scout Leader at gsl@2ndUpminsterScouts.org.uk. Having done that, if you are still unhappy you may contact the local District Commissioner at: 07967 481 788 or dc@hornchurchscouts.org.uk