

## ***What is a Scout Leader / Helper?***

### ***How do Scouts Operate ?***



Scouts are aged between 10½ and 14 years old. The weekly programmes will incorporate games and activity around a theme of “Adventure and Achievement”. Scouts are organised into groups known as “Patrols” with each Patrol being led by a Patrol Leader. There are a number of badges that can be gained representing challenge and activity which can be covered either at meetings, camps, home or other hobbies.

### ***What do Scouts do?***

As with all Scouting, the programme can be whatever the leaders determine subject of course to the safety and welfare of the Scouts. The main objective for the Scout Leaders is to run a programme that provides a balance between fun, adventure, individual and group achievement. The Scout section also places great emphasis on individual development, Teamwork, Leadership, Responsibility and Service to others. Many of the activities will be Patrol based with the objective of the Patrol Leader guiding the patrol through the activity, with adult assistance as required.

The activities and badges available cover a very broad spectrum to meet the needs not only of the Scouts but also the interests of the Leadership team. Experts will be engaged to cover adventurous activities such as Climbing, Hill Walking, Water Sports, Archery etc and as a group we encourage our Leaders to become qualified in any Adventurous activity should they wish. For example within the group we have qualified Archery and Rifle Shooting instructors.

### ***What is the Commitment ?***

Each weekly programme lasts for 2 hours onto which you should add another 30 minutes for the “before” and “after” preparation, clearing away and discussion on how it went. In addition the planning meetings last for about 2 hours each half term.

The Scout section is the most demanding if we are to offer exciting Scouting for those taking part with the highlight being the Summer camp which normally lasts for 1 week. There are also 6 or 7 activities that take place outside of the troop meetings each year. These could be a Troop or group event or taking part in District or County events such as the Football or orienteering.

### ***What Skills do I need?***

The main skills required to help Scouts are enthusiasm, a sense of fun and some basic common sense. You will be surprised how much of your own life experience will be of benefit to the Scouts and how quickly you will learn new skills by working with other adults and the Scouts themselves. Previous Scouting and Guiding experience is not necessary.

### ***What will I do?***

You will be part of the Leadership team. This means that you will be involved in the execution of the weekly programme which could mean helping or running an activity or game, helping a Patrol of Scouts complete a task or taking part in a trip, visit or camp. As your experience and confidence grows you may want to take the responsibility of organising the evening programme.

## ***But I don't know what to do!***

**Don't Worry!** We all had to start somewhere and others in the Leadership team will have varying amount of experience to help you. There are also a number of books and online resources to provide ideas for games and activities that will be available to you when you are ready to read them!