



# ***FOUR MARKS AND ROPLEY SCOUT GROUP***

Registered Charity No 302240



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## WELCOME!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Fours Marks and Ropley Scout Group.

This welcome pack will hopefully answer any questions that you may have regarding the Scout Association and our Group.

If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Melissa Smith - Group Scout Leader [GSL@FourMarksScouts.org.uk](mailto:GSL@FourMarksScouts.org.uk) 07875 060681

The contact details of each Section Leader are listed towards the back of this pack

## WHAT IS SCOUTING?

Scouting is an international movement with over 28 million members worldwide, spread through 216 countries and territories. The number of countries recognising the value of Scouting and accepting its principles is increasing and there are only six countries in the world who do not offer Scouting to young people.

In total there are about 500,000 people in Membership throughout the United Kingdom. This includes about 100,000 adults who have taken up appointments as voluntary leaders, administrators, and supporters.

The Scout Association in the UK accepts members of all major faiths and offers equal opportunities for both boys and girls no matter what their social, religious, or ethnic background may be.

During 1991, girls were admitted to the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Sections. This complemented the admission of young women to the Venture Scout Section in 1976.

During the spring of 2002 the Scout Association launched a new programme for young people aged 6-25. This was the largest change to our curriculum for nearly 40 years. A careful strategy of change management was devised to help people move forward, delivering a totally new way of providing Scouting, to the 14-25 age range.



## OUR GROUP

Four Marks Scout Group was recorded as being formed in 1955, Originally 4th Alresford (Four Marks) and part of Alresford District until the merger of Alresford and Alton Districts to become Rotherfield District from 1st April 1994.

Although no formal record of the group existed before then it's been stated that Wolf Cubs began in 1940 with Rev S G Harvey meeting at St Margaret's Church until he was recalled to active service. Records do however show that the first Scout Master N S Gurney was presented his warrant in 1952 holding its first meetings at his home in Telegraph Lane.

The group moved to an old wooden army hut of Boyneswood Lane with cubs forming not long after in 1953. The original hut was destroyed by fire in 1968 and the section dispersed to a combination of meeting places. With the help of the parish council the new scout hut in Uplands Lane was opened in 1971. Beavers started in 1985 and Venture (Explorer) Scouts in 1990.

We remain a busy group with over 100 young people. These young people are supported by circa 30 adult volunteers and many parents.



## THE PURPOSE OF SCOUTING

Scouting in the UK is organised through The Scout Association. The Scout Association has a clear purpose:

‘To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as Members of their local, national and international communities’.

Even if we can't solve all the problems in the world, we can help to make it a better place. We do this by helping young people to develop as active members of their community.

- who are self-reliant?
- who are caring
- who are responsible
- who are show commitment

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by doing in partnership with adults.

They do this by taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences exploring the outdoors participating in teams taking responsibility.

Our method for giving young people the opportunity to learn by doing is called the Programme. The Programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people do in Scouting from the ages of 6 to 25.

All adults in Scouting have a responsibility to make sure that the Programme is fun and exciting. We must also make sure that it is safe. The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, advice on child protection and safety are there to help adults make sure that the young people in their care stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.



## THE SCOUT PROMISE

Scouting has a simple and positive promise that is required to be made by all members. The Promise together with the Scout Law, gives a distinctive ethos to the practices of the Movement and acts as a bond with Scouts in other countries.

The three key principles are:

- Duty to self
- Duty to god
- Duty to others

Everyone in Scouting expresses their membership and acceptance of the three key principles by taking the Promise and following the Scout Law. Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts have their own special Promise and Law, suitable for their age range.

### The Scout Promise

On my honour,  
I promise that I will do my best

Either

To do my duty to God and to the Queen,

Or

To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen,  
To help other people  
And to keep the Scout Law

Other alternative wordings can be viewed on the [Scout Association Website](#)

### 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!





## THE FIVE SECTIONS

Irrespective of a member's age, a young person in the Movement is a 'Scout'.

The balanced Programme spans the 6-25 age range which is made up of five Sections.

Each Section has its own identity, ethos and style. They all have adult support that varies in style across the different age groups.

A Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between six and eight. (minimum age 5  $\frac{3}{4}$ , maximum age 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  applies)

A Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8 – 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  (6-month flexibility applies)

A Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 14 years (6-month flexibility applies) These are all part of a Scout Group.

An Explorer Scout Unit is for young people from 14-18 years old (minimum age 13  $\frac{1}{2}$ , maximum age 18). Explorer Scout Units are part of a Scout District (Rotherfield District), although some are attached to Groups.

A Scout Network is for young people aged 18 - 25 years old. Scout Networks are the responsibility of the Scout County (Hampshire).

There are several important things, which make Scouting different from many other youth organisations:

- We are a uniformed movement
- We use 'Sixes' and 'Patrols' of about 6 young people who work together, learning from and supporting each other
- We involve young people in decision making as part of their development

Additionally, the group has a Scout Active Support section, comprising adults who are prepared to assist with activities and events. If you are happy to join the SAS mailing list and receive occasional requests for help, please contact our SAS Team.

[SAS@FourMarksScouts.org.uk](mailto:SAS@FourMarksScouts.org.uk)





## THE BEAVER COLONY

A Beaver Scout Colony has members aged between 6 and 8 years old (6-month flexibility applies). They meet together as a Colony and work within small groups called 'Lodges'. A team of adults will run the Beaver Scout Colony. Beavers take part in a wide range of activities. These include making things, singing, playing games, going on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories etc. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the leadership team.

Beaver Scouts:

- Learn about themselves – exploring their feelings and developing good habits of health and personal safety.
- Get to know people – finding out about people in their family, the family of Scouting, the local community, and the wider world
- Explore - discovering the exciting world of science, nature, and technology, exploring the natural and man-made world
- Care - growing and responding to the needs of others, the local community, and the wider world.

Beaver Scout work towards challenge awards, which are awarded by taking part in the regular programme. With hard work and regular attendance Beavers can gain their Bronze Award.

Beavers also can gain Activity Badges, which they can work towards both inside and outside pack meetings.

Contact: [Beavers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk](mailto:Beavers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk)

## Meetings



Willows: Monday 17:00 to 18:15

Beaver Scout Colony 6 – 8 years



<https://www.scouts.org.uk/beavers/awards/>



## THE CUB PACK

A Cub Scout Pack has members aged 8-10 ½ years old (6-month flexibility applies). Cub Scouts meet as a Pack and work within a variety of small groups called 'Sixes'. A team of adults will run the Cub Scout Pack, usually led by an Akela, some will be uniformed leaders' others maybe sectional assistants, helpers, or parents.

Cubs take part in a wide range of activities that are designed to be interesting and to challenge them. At the same time, they have fun, adventure, and make friends along the way. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the Leadership team such as: camping, playing games, trying new things, and exploring the outdoors.

Cub Scouts work towards awards and badges. The Cub Scout Membership Award is presented to new Cub Scouts once they have learnt about the traditions and history of Scouting and about being a Cub Scout today. Activity badges are specialist interest badges that can further develop a Cub Scout's interest. They can also form the basis for special events, and some are geared at the whole pack working together. With hard work and regular attendance Cub Scouts can gain their Silver Award.

They are the chance to carry out activities that are not possible at the regular weekly meeting.

Akela, the Cub Scout Leader, who has overall responsibility for the Pack, will lead the Leadership Team.

It is, however, very much a team effort with everyone having something to offer.

Contact: [Cubs@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk](mailto:Cubs@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk)

## Meetings



Cub Scout Pack 8 – 10½ years

Gurney: Monday 18:30 to 20:00



<https://www.scouts.org.uk/cubs/awards/>



# SCOUTS

## THE SCOUT TROOP

A Scout Troop is for young people aged from 10 ½ - 14 years old (6-month flexibility applies). Scouts meet as a Troop and work within a variety of small groups called 'Patrols' lead by a Scout Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders work with the Leadership Team in setting the programme and in decisions affecting the Troop.

The Patrol system is one of the important ways that young people can take responsibility for themselves and others.

A volunteer leadership team made up of uniformed Leaders and other informal Assistants and helpers will guide the Troop.

Scouting has a reputation as an outdoor organisation based on strong traditions of camping and other outdoor pursuits.

Scouts work towards challenge awards, culminating in the Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Scouts also have the opportunity to gain a wide range of activity badges by working inside and outside troop meetings.

Most of the badges and awards in Scouts require independent work by the scouts themselves. Most Troops will offer a number of events away from home during the year, and very often a summer camp. These are important to the life of the Troop, as they are the culmination of much of the training during the year.

Contact: [Scouts@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk](mailto:Scouts@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk)

## Meetings

# SCOUTS

Storey: Friday 19:00 – 21:00

Scout Troop 10½ - 14 years



<https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/awards/>

# EXPLORERS<sup>®</sup>

## THE EXPLORERS

Explorers is for young people aged from 14 – 18 years old.

Explorers meet weekly as a unit.

Every Explorer is unique, but they find common ground in their shared Scout values and make a promise to stick by them.

Making a promise when you join the Unit is a way of celebrating these values.

Every time a new Explorer decides to join, they chat through their promise with their leader before saying it out loud in front of their fellow Explorers. Family and friends might come along to see this, too. The process usually takes place once you've had a few weeks to settle in and is known as being 'invested' into Explorers.

Explorers work towards their Chief Scouts Diamond and culminating in their Queen Scouts Award but can also continue to work towards a varied selection of activity badges. They also encourage each explorer to participate as a young leader within other sections within the group.

Our Unit also strongly promotes the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme

**Bronze** – for those aged 14+ years\*

**Silver** – for those aged 15+ years\*

**Gold** – for those aged 16+ years



\* If a young person isn't 14 or 15 yet but is in the school year in which their peer group turns 14/15, they can start their respective award. All activities must be completed by a young person's 25th birthday.

Contact: [Explorers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk](mailto:Explorers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk)

## Meetings

# EXPLORERS

Shaws: Monday 19:30 – 21:00

Explorer Scout Unit 14 - 18 years



<https://www.scouts.org.uk/explorers/awards/>

# SCOUT GROUP SECTION MEETINGS



## Four Marks and Ropley Scout Group

Group Scout Leader: Melissa Smith  
GSL@FourMarksScouts.org.uk  
Tel: 07875 060681



Beaver Scout Colony 6 – 8 years

Willows: Monday 17:00 to 18:15  
Beavers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk



Cub Scout Pack 8 – 10½ years

Gurney: Monday 18:30 to 20:00  
Cubs@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk



Scout Troop 10½ - 14 years

Storey: Friday 19:00 – 21:00  
Scouts@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk



Explorer Scout Unit 14 - 18 years

Shaws: Monday 19:30 – 21:00  
Explorers@FourMarksScouts.Org.uk



Scout Network 18 - 25 years

Adhoc

For Waiting List Enquiries please contact [help@fourmarksscouts.org.uk](mailto:help@fourmarksscouts.org.uk)



## WHERE DO WE MEET?

Most meetings are at the Scout Hut, Uplands Lane, Four Marks

Address: Uplands Lane, Four Marks

Postcode: GU34 5AF

County: Hampshire



