

1st Claygate Scout Group



About Scouts



Claygate Scout Centre
Oaken Lane
Claygate
Esher
Surrey
KT10 0RQ
Tel.: 01372 461770

Web site www.claygatescouts.org

Contents

1	Introduction from your Group Scout Leader	3
2	About the Scout Section.....	3
2.1	The Patrol System.....	4
2.2	Aims of the Scout Programme.....	4
2.3	The Uniform	5
2.4	Awards.....	5
2.5	Positioning the Badges.....	6
2.6	The Scout Promise.....	7
2.7	The Scout Motto.....	7
2.8	The Scout Law	7
2.9	The Investiture	7
2.10	Camp Kit List.....	7
2.11	Moving on to Explorer Scouts.....	8
3	Main Events in the Group Calendar.....	8
3.1	Scouting Activities	8
3.2	Other events	9
4	Subscriptions	9
4.1	Subscriptions – by Gift Aid	9
5	Contact Details.....	9
5.1	Group Leaders	10
5.2	Scout Troop	10

Appendices

Membership Information Form (for completion)

1 Introduction from your Group Scout Leader

If your child is joining us from another Group or is new to Scouting, we welcome you to 1st Claygate Scout Group, one of the largest and most successful groups in Surrey. You may also wish to read an accompanying booklet 'About the Group' which describes how the Group is set up and run.

If your child has been a cub with us you will already know a lot about the way the Group works, but if you need reminding there are electronic copies of all of our booklets on our website www.claygatescouts.org.

In this booklet we introduce you and your child to the Scout Section which he/she is now ready to join.

Let me take the opportunity to remind you of what Scouting is about.

It aims to appeal to a young person's desires for fun and adventure provided through attractive and active programmes. It provides opportunities for developing in young people the qualities that make good citizens; honour, self-discipline, dependability, respect for others and self-reliance.

Young people learn by doing, and Scouting offers activities to capture their imagination and enable each individual to find something in which to participate, develop skills and gain confidence. As far as possible, these activities take place outdoors as in camping, hiking, caving, sailing, mountaineering and many others, alongside a training programme which is structured from Beaver Scouts to Explorer Scouts.

Scouting teaches what is not learnt at home or at school and assists in character development. However, we rely on adult volunteers to make it all possible, either as leaders to run meetings, camps and so on, or as supporters to provide the material requirements and assist the leaders with the running of activities.

We hope your child will enjoy the new challenge and build on the skills he/she has already acquired.

As you probably know, when your child joined the Group you became members of the Group Council, which usually meets once a year at the Group AGM. Thank you for your participation so far. We hope you will continue to ensure the Group survives and flourishes by either helping with a section, helping with the general running of the Group or helping with at least two fund-raising events a year.

Due to an increase in numbers over the last year or so, the Troop is now led by a team of leaders who continue to review and develop the way this section runs so you may find some of the information in this booklet gets quickly out of date! You will be informed of any major changes and can always get the latest copy of this booklet from the website should you need it.

Please complete the Membership Information form at the end of the booklet if you have not already done so or wish to update information, and return it to your child's Section Leader as soon as possible.

Thank you

Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader

April 2010

2 About the Scout Section

As you probably know Scouts is the last of the sections in the group which your child may progress through until he/she is between 14 and 15 years old. After this he/she may choose to join the District Explorer Scout Unit which is based at the new Scout Centre but run by the

District. (Explorer Scouts are sometimes referred to as Venture Scouts which was the name of the section for 15½ - 25 year olds before 2002.)

Your child will join one of the patrols in the Scout Section of 1st Claygate Scout Group: Cobras, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Eagles, Stags and Owls. The troop operates quite differently from the Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs as the boys themselves take on more responsibility. However, it still needs a lot of adult support as activities are much more varied and adventurous.

The Troop meets on Mondays from 7.15 to 9pm including the half term week when it is usual to meet for a wide game. This will be confirmed in Troop Notices which are distributed regularly.

As you already know, the adults your child will come in contact with during his time in Scouting have been through a formal vetting process to ensure their suitability to work with young people. The leaders take part in a comprehensive training programme including First Aid Training. For activities such as Archery, Caving, Canoeing, Mountaineering, Hiking etc. we have a number of trained scouters to lead these events and do everything they can to ensure your child's safety.

If you have a query at any time please ask one of the troop leaders. The best time to ask a question is usually at the end of the meeting when there is more time available. If you require further clarification on Scouting matters please contact Hugh Gostling, Group Scout Leader. For matters relating to the support activities of the Group please speak to Harry Jones Group Chairman of The Group Executive Committee. Relevant contact details are in section 5.

The Troop's parent representative (see details in the Who's Who section) will be glad to receive feedback on any aspect of the group which will be discussed at the leaders committee.

Don't forget to visit the scout association website at www.scoutbase.org.uk if you haven't already done so. If you don't have access to the Internet and would like any specific information please ask and we will make sure you receive paper copies.

2.1 The Patrol System

The Scout Troop uses the 'Patrol System', which encourages the older Scouts to develop their abilities and be able to be responsible for others. A Patrol is made up of six or so Scouts, which is led by a Patrol Leader who has an Assistant Patrol Leader.

Some of the tasks that older Scouts can be asked to undertake are; put forward ideas for activities, help to maintain discipline, encourage team spirit, organise activities at a Troop meeting and accept responsibility for leading teams taking part in District competitions.

2.2 Aims of the Scout Programme

The Scout Troop aims to provide a range of activities which challenge young people and help them to develop a range of skills, which can include the following: management of a team, teamwork, planning, organise, leadership, show initiative and take responsibility. It also seeks to teach life skills such as cooking, navigation and generally how to look after themselves.

Our aim is to provide a balanced programme of activities during your child's time as a Scout. There are six Programme Zones in the Scout Section. They are:

- Beliefs and Attitudes
- Community
- Fit for Life
- Creative Expression
- Global
- Outdoor and Adventure

This means that your child will be given the opportunity to take part in:

- Activities outdoors
- Games
- Design and creativity
- Visits and visitors
- Service
- Technology and new skills
- Team-building activities
- Activities with others
- Themes
- Prayer, worship and reflection.

Please visit <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/scout/programme/index.htm> for full details.

2.3 The Uniform

The Scout Uniform comprises:

- Dark Green long-sleeved shirt
- Dark blue Activity Trousers (these are worn right through the sections)
- Leather Scout belt
- Black School Style Shoes for formal occasions

For most meetings uniform should always be well presented, but trainers are acceptable, however for particularly smart occasions i.e. parades, competitions and investiture nights, uniform is to include the wearing of clean black shoes.

If you are new to the Group your Group scarf and leather woggle will be awarded at your child's investiture. (Replacements can be obtained from troop leader for a small sum.)

Shirt and trousers, as well as other items such as T-shirts and caps, can be obtained from the Walton & Weybridge Scout Shop, 4th Walton Headquarters, Cottimore Lane, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2BX. It is open on Mondays from 3.30-5pm and Wednesday from 7-9pm during term time only. Alternatively items can be ordered on-line from the Scout Shop; www.scoutshops.com.

In addition we do have a limited stock of second-hand uniforms. Your child's sections leader will be able to show you what we have.

2.4 Awards

There are ten Challenge awards within the section as follows:-

- The Outdoor Challenge*
- The Outdoor Plus Challenge
- The Creative Challenge*
- The Fitness Challenge*
- The Global Challenge*
- The Community Challenge*
- The Adventure Challenge
- The Expedition Challenge
- The Promise Challenge*

The highest award within the Troop section is the Chief's Scout Gold Award, and in order to achieve this a Scout needs to have attained all of the challenges marked with an asterisk plus two of the others.

A range of 69 activity badges supplements these core awards.

Many of the skills needed to pass the awards are gained through practical experience and sometimes it may appear that basic Scouting Skills are being repeated. This is to ensure that the basic knowledge is being retained and can be put to use at camp or in competitions. It is also often the difference in being able to do something oneself and to instruct others to do the same thing.

Core skills such as Camping, Navigation, Hiking and Pioneering are a theme throughout all of these certificates, examples of the items are:-

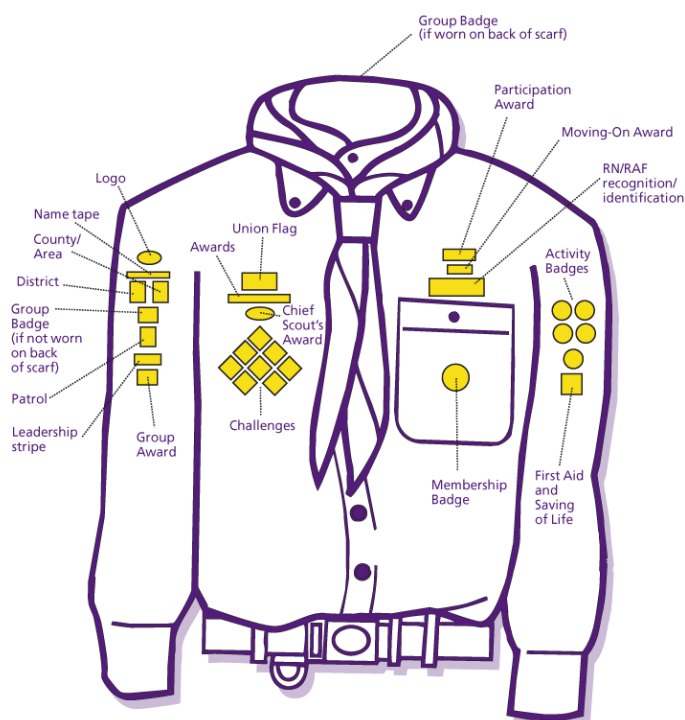
- Pitch, strike and store a tent correctly.
- Prepare, cook, serve and clear away a meal and a hot drink out of doors using an open fire.
- Complete with suitable equipment, a one-day expedition with friends by foot, navigating using map and compass.
- Demonstrate the correct use of six knots, bends or hitches used in Scouting activities.
- Take an active part in a pioneering project out of doors with your Patrol.
- Lead others on a hike, which includes setting a map, taking compass bearings, map references and knowledge of Ordnance Survey conventional signs.
- Plan and use a balanced menu for a weekend camp for your Patrol.
- Take a leading part in a pioneering project, which demonstrates the correct use of at least two different types of lashing.
- Plan a route for an expedition; describe by map reading what you would expect to see; go on the journey and report back to your Patrol what you saw and did.

Other aspects of scouting are covered by:-

- Writing an account of a Patrol activity in which you took part, for a newsletter, magazine or newspaper, or design and produce advertising material for an event or activity.
- Demonstrating the correct use of the Union flag and your Troop flag or colours.

2.5 Positioning the Badges

The following diagram shows where badges need to be positioned on the Scout Uniform. You can find a larger version of this at <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/uniforms/scout.htm>.



A number of badges will be presented at your child's investiture. The main one is the Membership Badge worn on the front. We do not have a Logo but do have a green Name tape with yellow writing – 1st Claygate. Our County & District badges are combined into a single badge and we do not have a Group Badge.

Further information on badges and awards is available on the website <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/6to25/scout/badges/index.htm>.

2.6 The Scout Promise

On My Honour, I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,
To help other people
And to keep the Scout Law

2.7 The Scout Motto

Be Prepared

2.8 The Scout Law

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

2.9 The Investiture

This event usually takes place after your child has been with the Troop for approximately half a term. The Scout Leader will ask your child to repeat the words of the promise after him. The Scout will then be presented with various items including a certificate, a log book and badges for his uniform. This is an important occasion and parents are invited to attend.

2.10 Camp Kit List

Your child will now be cooking his own food at camp and have more involvement in choosing what he/she does at camp, and to some extent during troop evenings. He/she will now be given the opportunity to attend Summer Camp which is a week long and will therefore need to think about more serious items such as hiking boots, penknives, water bottle, plates, bowls, cups and cutlery. Optional items are head-torches, compasses and the like but I am sure your child will have his own list!

The Group still provides tents, groundsheets and extensive cooking materials (kept in the patrol box).

The following is a suggestion when packing for camp:

- Kitbag / Rucksack* or similar
- Sleeping Bag*
- Sleeping mat
- Torch
- Waterproof Outer Garment – Cagoule, Gore-Tex* or similar
- Training shoes
- Hiking boots* or strong shoes
- Warm Sweater or fleece

T-Shirts

Shorts (it is traditional for scouts to wear shorts when at camp to avoid the bottoms of trousers getting wet in the dewy grass!)

Long trousers not jeans

Swimming costume

Night wear

Spare underclothes and socks

Handkerchiefs and tissues

Washing kit and towel

Tea towels (old ones!)

Personal first aid kit – remember the Scout First aid kit cannot carry aspirin, paracetamol etc.

Camp Blanket for camp fires (optional)

* If you require any advice on these items, your Troop Leader will be pleased to offer help.

Note: the Group has no Insurance cover for loss or damage to personally owned equipment. Most 'Household Comprehensive' Policies cover this type of risk.

2.11 Moving on to Explorer Scouts

Your child will be eligible to move on to Explorer Scouts between the ages of 14 and 15 years old. By this time you should be very familiar with the scout movement and know what to expect. We hope your child will continue to enjoy scouting and maybe consider putting something back into the Group by becoming a Young Leader. The Explorer Unit draws its membership from a wider community.

3 Main Events in the Group Calendar

3.1 Scouting Activities

There are a number of activities which are specific to scouts. For these activities individual letters are not always issued. In order to teach the Scouts about being responsible for their own development as Scouts, and as members of the Troop, we have operated the following system for a number of years: a simple poster advertising the activity is either placed on the Troop notice board or on the Patrol's own notice board and interested Scouts are asked to add their name to these lists. The leaders assume that the Scouts will confirm at home that they are available for the activity and will therefore be available when selected for a team representing the Troop.

Where letters are issued, there is usually a tear-off slip where you can indicate whether or not your child will be attending. Please return these as soon as possible as this is a considerable help when planning transport, food and so on. If money is required please can this be returned with the reply slip with a cheque unless cash is specifically requested.

Attendance at some activities may be arranged by the Patrol Leaders and this may be achieved by the Patrol Leader making telephone calls to the Patrol members.

The Troop has a variety of activities each year and examples of this are set out below:-

Easter Camp	A weekend away for Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders
Group Activity Weekend (GAW) Camp	A Camp open to all Scouts usually held in May
Sailing	Three weekends are arranged over the year, two based on daily visits to the sailing centre and one a weekend camp.
Canoeing	Courses are run in Kayaking for 1 and 2 Star British Canoe Union

	Standards and other courses for the more advanced.
Climbing	Two Climbing Days are usually organised and we make use of the climbing wall at Surrey University.
Training Events	Building the going up ceremony items or additional events arranged as the need arises.
Summer Camp	This is the highlight of the year and as far as the leaders are concerned it is what each year's programme should build towards.
Service Projects	Examples are the Christmas Postal Service and putting out chairs at the Village Hall for local organisations.

3.2 Other events

Major annual events are listed in section 6 and by now you will probably be familiar with most of them so they are named simply as a reminder.

The Troop takes part in a number of competitions, all of which are recorded in the Troop Log, which contribute points towards the Esher District Top Troop Trophy. So everyone who takes part in individual competitions will be awarded points which count towards the final result.

4 Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are levied three times a year on 1st April, 1st September and 1st January. They are calculated on an annual basis and revised annually. You will receive a request for payment in the first weeks of term and will be asked to post monies to the Subscriptions Co-ordinator.

The current subscription for Scouts is £123 per annum (£41 per term).

An additional subscription of £1.50 per week is requested from band members to cover the provision of uniform, refreshments and other band expenses.

4.1 Subscriptions – by Gift Aid

Since 1986 we have managed to increase our fundraising by the reclamation of tax on Covenanted Subscriptions. The system was changed and now we wish to collect all subscriptions by Gift Aid. The Scout Group reclaims the tax as a recognised and registered charity in the same way as other well known charities e.g. Cancer Research. The tax is reclaimed as it has already been paid through the donor's taxed income. This means that for every £1 of subscriptions you pay the group can claim back 22p.

This is obviously a very advantageous method of the group increasing its annual income and is put to good use in the equipment and activities that the group provides.

You will be prompted to donate in this way when paying your subscription - please do so if you can.

5 Contact Details

There is a complete list of all adults who do voluntary work for the Group, with their addresses and phone numbers, at the Scout Centre. Details below should be sufficient to enable to contact anyone you might need to speak with. If you are interested in joining the team – there is usually room for more help!

5.1 Group Leaders

G.S.L.	:	Hugh Gostling, 21 Cavendish Drive
A.G.S.L.	:	Graham Gibbs
A.G.S.L.	:	Debbie Bowles

Group : Harry Jones
Chairman

5.2 Scout Troop

S.L. : Richard Baldwin
A.S.L. : Shaun Ellis
A.S.L. : Ali Carruthers
A.S.L. : Mark Antell
A.S.L. : Gavin Carruthers

1st Claygate Scout Group

(Founded 1909)



Membership Information

Not only does this form give us important information it also enables parents to take part in activities (If only for providing transport to and from camp) having been 'cleared' by the Scout Association, a necessary process before all adults have contact with young people. Please return this form to your child's section Leader at the next meeting or e-mail it and copy to gostling.family@ntlworld.com An electronic version of this form is available from Hugh Gostling or the Group Web Site – www.claygatescouts.org.

Section: _____ (e.g. Maple Beavers)

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel. No: _____

E-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact details for during meeting: _____

School: _____

Place of worship/faith: _____

Parents/Guardians names: _____

Fathers occupation: _____

Mothers Occupation: _____

Child's special needs-medical, dietary, social, educational: _____

Relatives in Group/ Friends in section: _____

Is there anything else you would like us to know? _____

P.T.O

www.claygatescouts.org

Registered Charity No.308135

Child's Name: _____

Section: _____

As mentioned already it is a requirement of your child's membership that you either help with a section, help with the general running of the Group or help with two fund-raising events per year. If you want further details on these please either contact your child's section Leader, or Hugh Gostling. Could you please indicate your preference below:

	Father	Mother
Help with a section:	_____	_____
Help with Service Crew:	_____	_____
Help at a camp etc:	_____	_____
Help with transport for camp: (Have Van/lorry for transporting equipment)	_____	_____
Help with fund-raising:	_____	_____
Serve on a sub-committee: (Please indicate which one)	_____	_____
Help with building maintenance:	_____	_____
Help with grounds maintenance:	_____	_____
Help with cleaning of the Centre:	_____	_____
Please indicate if either of you have ever been involved in Scouting or Guiding as a member or helper	_____	_____

Data Protection

This information will be held on computer for the Group's use and will only be used for scouting purposes. The Group will not pass on e-mail address to other parties outside of Scouting and e-mail addresses will only be used to provide information about Scouting events.

If you object please contact Harry Jones.