



3rd Whitton Scout Group

Information for New Joiners

An introduction to Scouting with 3rd Whitton

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Author:	Caron Carter . Group Scout Leader
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Forward

Thank you for considering joining 3rd Whitton Scout Group. If you do, and I hope you will, you will belong to a Movement with over 28 million Members worldwide.

The following pages are meant to guide you and give you some important information both about Scouting generally and specifically about the 3rd Whitton Scout Group.

We have not, indeed cannot include absolutely everything; if you have questions, please feel free to ask me or any of the Leaders and we will be glad to help.

It's a long document, sorry, but it does contain things you need to know. Please read it.

I hope you will find Scouting as fun and as enjoyable as I do and for many years to come.

Caron Carter Group Scout Leader

What's Scouting all about?

The purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Scout Method provides an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, which is guided by adult leadership. In practice the method is best seen when young people, in partnership with adults, are:

- enjoying what they are doing;
- learning by doing;
- participating in varied and progressive activities;
- making choices for themselves;
- taking responsibility for their own actions;
- working in groups;
- taking increasing responsibility for others;
- taking part in activities outdoors;
- sharing in prayer and worship;
- making and living out their Promise

What are the Sections and age groups?

All sections in 3rd Whitton Scout Group are open to both boys and girls. All sections are open to members of any faith (and comply with Scout policies with regard to those who have no faith), but aims to serve the particular needs of the local Catholic and Muslim communities.

The Sections and age ranges at 3rd Whitton are:

Beaver Scouts 6 . 8 years old ; Cub Scouts 8 . 10½ years old;
Scouts 10½ . 14½ years old;

The Group aims to provide St Edmunds Sections and Ibn Battuta Sections, but sometimes these sections will be combined. The days and times that sections meet are displayed on the 3rd Whitton website (www.3rdwhitton.org.uk) or can be provided by section leaders as necessary.

Explorer Scouts (14½ - 18 years old) also meet at 3rd Whitton Headquarters. Although separate to 3rd Whitton, the Edmund Hillary Explorer Unit is very closely associated with the Group and often enjoy joint adventures with the Scout Troop.

We can also put you in touch with the Scout Network for 18.25 year olds and the Richmond District Scout Active Support Unit (for the over 18s).

How do I join?

Scouting is a uniformed and values based organisation. As a Member of any age you must:

- Understand and to commit to undertaking the Scout Promise
- Wear the appropriate uniform
- Make the Scout Promise at an Investiture ceremony and live up to it
- Pay the Membership fees

As a Member of 3rd Whitton, there are additional commitments:

- Regular attendance . please tell us when you can't make a meeting
- Attendance at the annual St. George's Day Parade (around 23 April)
- Attendance at Church Parades if applicable (see Faiths & Beliefs below)

Before committing to anything or going on a spending spree buying uniforms, new joiners attend a number of meetings first. During this time you will find out more about Scouting and our Group . both the really fun bits (like the games and activities) and the (little bit) more serious aspects, such as the Promise, ceremonies and rules. It usually takes a *minimum* of 4 or 5 meetings before someone is ready to be Invested. There's no pressure at all and we appreciate that Scouts is not everybody's cup of tea. But it's worth a try.

Before you can take part in any activities you will need to complete a Scout Association Membership form (available from a Leader). Your details will be entered into the Scout Association database . The form includes the relevant Data Protection Notice and how your details are handled.

To remain a member, you need to ensure that your termly subscription is paid on time and that you attend regularly.

The Scout Promise

The Scout Promise and Scout Law take a number of forms appropriate to the Section and some words can be adjusted, by special agreement, to better suit your faith and beliefs:

BEAVERS

The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best
To be kind and helpful
And to love God.

The Beaver Scout Law

There is no formal Beaver Scout Law. The concepts expressed in the Scout Law are presented to Beaver Scouts through games, storytelling and other informal activities.

CUBS

The Cub Scout Promise

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 Cub Scout Law.

The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best,
Think of others before themselves
And do a good turn every day.

SCOUTS

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.

The Scout Law

A Scout is to be trusted.
A Scout is loyal.
A Scout is friendly and considerate.
A Scout belongs to the world-wide 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.

Note that Explorer Scouts, Network Scouts, Members of the Scout Active Support Units, Leaders and all other adult Members also make this, the Scout Promise. We renew our Promise at least once a year.

Your Uniform

Each of the different Sections wears a regulation standard uniform. You will need to purchase the basic items before Investiture. At 3rd Whitton, this means:

Beaver Scouts:

Beaver Scout turquoise top (similar to a sweatshirt)
Scout blue activity trousers

Cub Scouts:

Cub Scout green top (similar to a sweatshirt)
Scout blue activity trousers

Scouts:

Scout green long sleeved shirt
Scout blue activity trousers
Scout leather trouser belt

You can order these items from the District Shop via your Leader. Alternatively you can buy these items in many school outfitters nationwide or online.

Do not buy a scarf, woggle or badges. These will be normally provided for you as part of the Investiture package which is included in the one-off Investiture fee (see Investiture below).

Optional Uniform items

A note of caution: When out shopping you will notice (or even be urged to buy) a number of other Scout Association items. These include polo shirts, hooded sweatshirts, waterproof cagoules, hats, fleeces, short trousers, socks, T-shirts, backpacks, key rings – just about anything. If your wallet stretches to all that, then great (profits go to Scout Association HQ coffers), but they are not an absolute necessity at this time. They can be birthday and Christmas presents for many birthdays and Christmases to come!

The optional item you may wish to purchase straight away, however, is the 3rd Whitton polo shirt. We often use our green 3rd Whitton polo shirt as %atigue+ uniform, especially in the summer when the regulation tops can be uncomfortable. Everyone wears the same green 3rd Whitton polo shirt including Leaders. These are available from your Leader.

Wearing Uniform

Unless told otherwise, you should wear your uniform to all meetings and activities, including arrival at camp. You will always get a chance to change into something more comfortable for games and activities. Most people wear a T-shirt underneath for that purpose. Trainers are quite suitable for most meetings, but we ask you to wear dark (school) shoes for Church Parade and other official functions where full uniform is required. Jeans & demin, skirts and frocks, dangly jewellery etc. are not to be worn for Scouting activities. Please also consider naming all clothing, including uniform & scarf.

Investiture

When you are completely sure that Scouting at 3rd Whitton is for you and you are ready to make your Promise, you will be Invested.

Investiture to the Scout Movement and Investitures to new Sections are very important milestones in your Scouting career. To mark these occasions, there is a special ceremony. Your Leader will explain all about it in detail. Parents and family are encouraged to attend and they can take photos for the family album.

There is a one-off New Joiner Investiture fee to cover expenses. This is currently £10. Current Members moving Sections (from Beavers to Cubs, say) don't need to pay this.

As part of the Investiture, you can expect to receive:

- 3rd Whitton Group scarf (emerald green with yellow border)
- Woggle
- Certificate of Investiture
- Uniform badges

How does 3rd Whitton work?

3rd Whitton Scout Group is governed and regulated by the current Policy, Organisation and Rules as published by the Scout Association in the UK and other requirements as defined by the Scout County of Greater London South West and the Scout District of Richmond Upon Thames.

The Scout Group is led by the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and managed by the Group Executive Committee.

The different Sections are run by Uniformed Leaders. All of our Leaders are unpaid volunteers who have been checked to ensure they are suitable to work with young people. They receive the support and training they need from the Scout Association to ensure that everyone enjoys Scouting in the safest possible manner.

The Group Executive Committee is chaired by the Group Chairman and manages the business affairs of the Group. They are responsible for the maintenance of property, raising funds, administration of Group finance, insurance, property and equipment. The Group also has a number of Registered Charity Trustees who ensure that the Group meets the requirements for charitable status.

Scout Association rules, as an educational charity, require us to hold an Annual General Meeting to vote in the Group Executive Committee and publish our affairs, including our annual accounts. We usually hold this around July. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Support from Parents & Guardians

Scouting can be a family affair. As a voluntary organisation, we encourage parents and guardians to become involved in the Scout Group in one way or another.

In fact without their support we cannot continue to provide a wide range of facilities and activities. There are all kinds of jobs from helping with gluing paper at a Beaver meeting to applying for building improvement grants on our behalf, helping with fundraising, refurbishing and repairing our HQ, joining our Executive team or becoming a Uniformed Leader.

Most of our Leaders have, or used to have, children in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. Training and support is provided. What can YOU do?

Faiths & Beliefs

The Scout Movement has Members who practice many different forms of religion.

3rd Whitton is an open Scout Group, which means that the Scout Group accepts Members in all Sections with different faiths and beliefs and in accordance with the Scout Movement's Spiritual Policy. The Group has the aim of operating two branches: 3rd Whitton (St. Edmunds) Group and 3rd Whitton (Ibn Battuta) Group, each consisting of a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop. Sections may be combined as necessary.

Since its foundation in 1938, the 3rd Whitton Scout Group has been supported by St. Edmunds RC Church in Whitton. This means the Scout Group and the Church support each other in achieving their spiritual aims. You do not need to be Roman Catholic or even Christian or worship at St. Edmunds to be a Member at 3rd Whitton, though we encourage a community link with the parish and school. You may choose to worship elsewhere or have a different faith or beliefs.

3rd Whitton (St Edmunds) Sections, are asked to attend Church Parades, in particular Remembrance Sunday, unless you really are actively worshipping somewhere else. Football practice and beauty sleep are not really good enough reasons for not going!

3rd Whitton (Ibn Battuta) Sections observe Muslim traditions and follow a Programme geared to the needs of Muslim culture and Islam. The Leaders are Muslim and the Group is supported by the National Muslim Scout Fellowship.

Sometimes all Sections participate in joint activities as a full Scout Group.

Camping & Activities

It's what the Scouts are famous for!

All of our Sections actively participate in events and competitions organised by the District. This way, we meet Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from other Groups.

Beavers try to hold one or two special outdoor events each year, though they are not allowed camp overnight. Cubs will have an opportunity to go camping at least once a year. Scouts

normally have a week long Troop Camp as well as weekend camps and other outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking and orienteering.

All of our camps, outings, excursions and activities are regulated by the Scout Association. Each camp, outing or offsite activity requires special permission forms which must be signed by parents/guardians. That way, we all know where we stand.

Money Matters

When paying fees or paying for activities, cash or cheques should be placed in an envelope with details of what the payment is for and who it is for and who it is from. You should ask for a receipt when paying cash.

Membership Fees

There is a one-off new joiner Investiture fee which covers expenses. Subscriptions are collected at the beginning of each term in January, April and September. Please see the current investiture and fee structure which is available on our website or please ask a Section Leader..

There is a Family Discount per term for siblings. e.g. Where an invested Scout pays full fee, his or her brother(s) and sister(s) will enjoy a reduced fee each per term. Please ask a Section Leader for the current family discount rate.

This money is used to:

- pay annual fees to District, County and National headquarters
- cover Scout Association personal liability insurance
- subsidise Leader training
- cover the running costs of our Group Headquarters
- purchase badges, books, pens, paper and other materials
- pay for resources such as newsletters
- subsidise some activities

Costs for Camps & Activities

It is our policy that camps and residential experiences should be self-funding. In other words, when all has been accounted for, the end balance should not be a loss.

The cost for a weekend camp is usually between £40 and £70 (at 2015 prices) depending on the accommodation and the activities being organised. Obviously, staying indoors in a heated lodge will cost more than sleeping under canvas. The amount charged is normally all-inclusive: covering all fees and expenses, all meals, excursions and activities. Sometimes even pocket money is included, but not always.

Other activities may be paid for or subsidised by the Group (such as District organised competitions and outings) and others may be charged for at cost price.

In all cases, we try to keep costs to you to a minimum. Nobody in our Scout Group gains anything. In the event that a camp makes a surplus, monies are not refunded - any surplus is re-invested into the Group for the direct benefit of our young people. All Group accounts are published at our Annual General Meeting.

Financial Help

We appreciate that that money can sometimes be tight. If you need a bit of help with the cost of subs, camp, activities etc. please have a quiet chat with one of the Leaders in confidence. We try to make sure that cost doesn't prevent a young person being involved in Scouting.

Gift Aid

Under the Gift Aid Scheme (or other appropriate schemes) we are able to reclaim the tax element of subscriptions paid by Members.

Please help us reclaim this money by completing the appropriate declaration in the Membership Form . You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on the payments. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Scout Group.

Communication

The Scout Group issues newsletters. The latest news as well as other useful information can always be found on our website: www.3rdwhitton.org.uk

Other, more personalised information is sent home via email as well as by letter. Please make sure we have your up to date contact details. In common with many other organisations, the Scout Association has to maintain a record of its Members.

You can contact any of the Leaders by email or by phone if needed. Your Leader will provide you with the details. Remember that we are unpaid volunteers, not full-time professionals, so try not to call when we are at work and please be sensitive when calling in the evenings.

Child Protection

It is the Policy of the Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical or sexual or emotional harm.. Child Protection is of paramount importance to us. You will find the Scouts current code of practice in A3 format on display at our HQ and a smaller summary is provided for the Leaders.

All Adults in Scouting, including Members of the Scout Network who wish to work with young people, must accept and understand this policy. They must also agree to put the Association's policy on child protection into practice. Leaders and Young Leaders must attend special training.

As part of that protection, all adults who could have unsupervised access to young people must undergo regular enhanced DBS checks (or checks which are compliant with current legislation). This certainly applies to all adults attending camping activities.

All adults will be offered the opportunity to complete a free DBS check. Individuals may choose not to do this, but this will mean they may not be able to attend some Scouting events.

Child Protection also includes bullying. It is Scout policy that bullying in any form is unacceptable and at 3rd Whitton we strive to have in place rigorous anti-bullying strategies.

Special Needs and Health Information

Please inform us if anyone joining Scouting as a new member or attending a Scouting event has any special needs or health issues which might affect their safe enjoyment of Scouting. Subject to the safety and enjoyment of others attending the event and our ability to provide appropriate Leader resources and adult support, we will do all we can to ensure these needs are catered for.

Membership Records & Data Protection

3rd Whitton Scout Group as part of the Scout Movement in the United Kingdom is a membership organisation. To enable it to operate and to communicate with its Members it is necessary to maintain records about them. This will include keeping details of name; address; date of birth; contact telephone numbers; email address.

We will also be keeping details of Members progress through Scouting (badges gained etc.). Information held in our Scout Group is shared within Scouting including the Headquarters of the Association. Adults and young people have the same rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 or relevant legislation). The Act covers paper based as well as computer based information.

Certain information is classed by the law as ~~s~~ Sensitive Personal Data. In a Scouting context this may include information about the Members:

- health (to ensure that we are prepared for medical emergencies it is important that we hold relevant information.)
- disabilities (to ensure a safe participation in activities, details of any disability need to be known.)
- religious or similar beliefs (this will help us ensure that we make appropriate arrangements when necessary.)
- racial or ethnic origin (again this will help us ensure that we are sensitive to cultural needs of our members).

All of the information you provide will only be used for Scouting purposes. It will not be passed to any third parties outside of the Scout Movement without your explicit instruction and consent.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Scout Group will keep your data safe, will be used only for the stated purpose and kept only for as long as necessary. For example, specific health data required for a camp regarding, say, medication for a specific temporary condition, will be confidentially destroyed shortly after the camp has closed.

If you require further information, please contact the Group Scout Leader.

Photos & Video

From time to time, the Scout Group may take photos and take video footage at Scouting events and use these images for publicising and promoting Scouting. These images may be used in occasional newsletters, on our website or other Scouting websites and newsletters, to decorate the walls in our HQ, be shown at our AGM as well as in other appropriate locations and publications.

We endeavour to use these images responsibly. It is our policy to never link a picture with a child's name (or other personally identifiable data) and especially not on publicly available publications, such as a website.

Unless you explicitly tell us otherwise in writing, the Scout Group will assume your consent to these conditions and use still and moving pictures of you or your child for the stated purposes.

Similarly, you can usually take pictures at Scouting events . we will tell you if there are restrictions in force. If you can share the photos with us too, we would love them.

More information

There simply is not enough space to include everything here.

Don't feel shy about approaching any of our Leaders about anything. We may not have all the answers right away, but we have access to a lot of resources.

These days, the internet is an excellent source for Scouting information. These are some useful links for starters (correct at time of publication):

Our own website: www.3rdwhitton.org.uk

Richmond District website: www.richmond-scouts.org.uk

Greater London South West County website: www.glsWSCouts.org.uk

The official UK Scout Member website: www.scouts.org.uk

Adult Scouting UK resources website: www.scoutbase.org.uk

World Organisation of the Scout Movement: www.scout.org

Scout Shops: www.scoutshops.com

And finally...

All of us at 3rd Whitton are unpaid volunteers which makes us all, by definition, amateurs. But we do our best to offer you the best professional Scouting we can.

Scouting can provide unique, memorable and even life-changing experiences. A number of our own 3rd Whitton Scouts have attained World Class status by being selected to represent the UK at *World Scout Jamborees* and others have moved on to truly remarkable international Scouting experiences, in Africa, Iceland, Italy, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden and much more!

Be Prepared... for adventure!