



29th EPPING FOREST SCOUT GROUP
CHIGWELL SCHOOL
Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6QF



From the Group Scout Leader
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& choose 'Scouts' under 'Co-curricular'

An Introduction to Scouting at Chigwell

The 29th is one of the oldest Scout Groups in the country. It is divided into two Sections: the Scout Troop (for ages 10.5-Removes); and the Explorer Scout Unit (LV-MVI). Scouting at Chigwell is fully co-educational.

What Scouting is

Everyone has a mission statement these days, and the Scouts' 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". Scouting tries to achieve this "by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership". Scouting puts young people into situations where they have to rely on themselves and each other, where they have to make decisions for themselves and for their friends, and where they do activities and learn skills which they wouldn't otherwise come across. Scouts learn to be good team members and good leaders: strong individuals who are able to make their own choices about life, and who have a developed sense of social responsibility. It is also fun!

Every Scout, Explorer Scout and warranted leader makes a promise, which I have added to the end of this document.

The Scout Troop

The Scout Troop is made up of Patrols, each of which is a group of 4-8 Scouts led by a Patrol Leader.

The PLs and Leaders' job is to plan and run a programme of activities designed to help every member of their Patrols to make progress towards various Awards: Scouting is carried out within a carefully structured training scheme, designed to encourage Scouts to develop progressively in areas such as Scoutcraft, Adventure, Community, Commitment, Health and Culture - but Scouting isn't school: it's more about getting outside and doing activities.

The Scouts meet Thursdays after school, from 4:15-6:00pm, and on various other evenings and weekends through the year. There are various expeditions over the year, but the main one is Summer Camp, during the first week of the summer holidays. We traditionally visit sites near hills in England or Wales, but last summer, for example, we went to Switzerland.

The Explorer Scout Unit

The Explorer Scout Unit runs a programme of activities which help each member of the Unit make progress towards their awards and have a good time in the process. During the Easter holidays the Explorer Scouts have their Easter Camp, usually in Scotland, among real mountains; we stay in hostel-style accommodation and hike into Knoydart, the remotest part of mainland Britain.

Finances

You will want to know how much Scouting would cost. There is a termly subscription, set currently at £15 (£10 each for siblings), plus about £25 in the Lent Term for membership dues to the Scout Association. Some activities & camps have to be charged separately, and some equipment may have to be bought - probably a rucksack, a sleeping bag, and for older Scouts some walking boots.

Transfers from other Groups

We would normally assume that it is better for a Scout to stay involved in Scouting *outside* School, where that is possible, though we do take people from other groups. Some Scouts attend our activities while retaining membership of another Group.

The Promise and Law

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.

All members of Scouting, including adult warranted leaders, have to make this promise in public. It is a simple promise, and one which, for better or worse, marks Scouting out from other youth movements. We believe that it is a good thing for young people to make some kind of basic public commitment to try to be good and useful members of the community, though I would never put pressure on someone to make that commitment; for me the essence of Scouting lies in encouraging people to make decisions for which they are prepared to take the consequences, all within a well-designed and structured framework.

C. J. Lord
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