

THE SCOUTS A USER'S MANUAL

An introduction to Scouting



Who we are
What we do
How we help
How to join

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION



Can you imagine a world without Scouting? Without the jamborees, friendships and adventures it would certainly be a quieter and less colourful place.

Scouting offers fun, challenge and everyday adventure to over 435,000 girls and boys. This makes us the largest mixed youth movement in the UK. We help young people explore their potential, grow in confidence and become the active citizens of the future. We make a positive impact on young people, our adult volunteers and the communities in which we live.

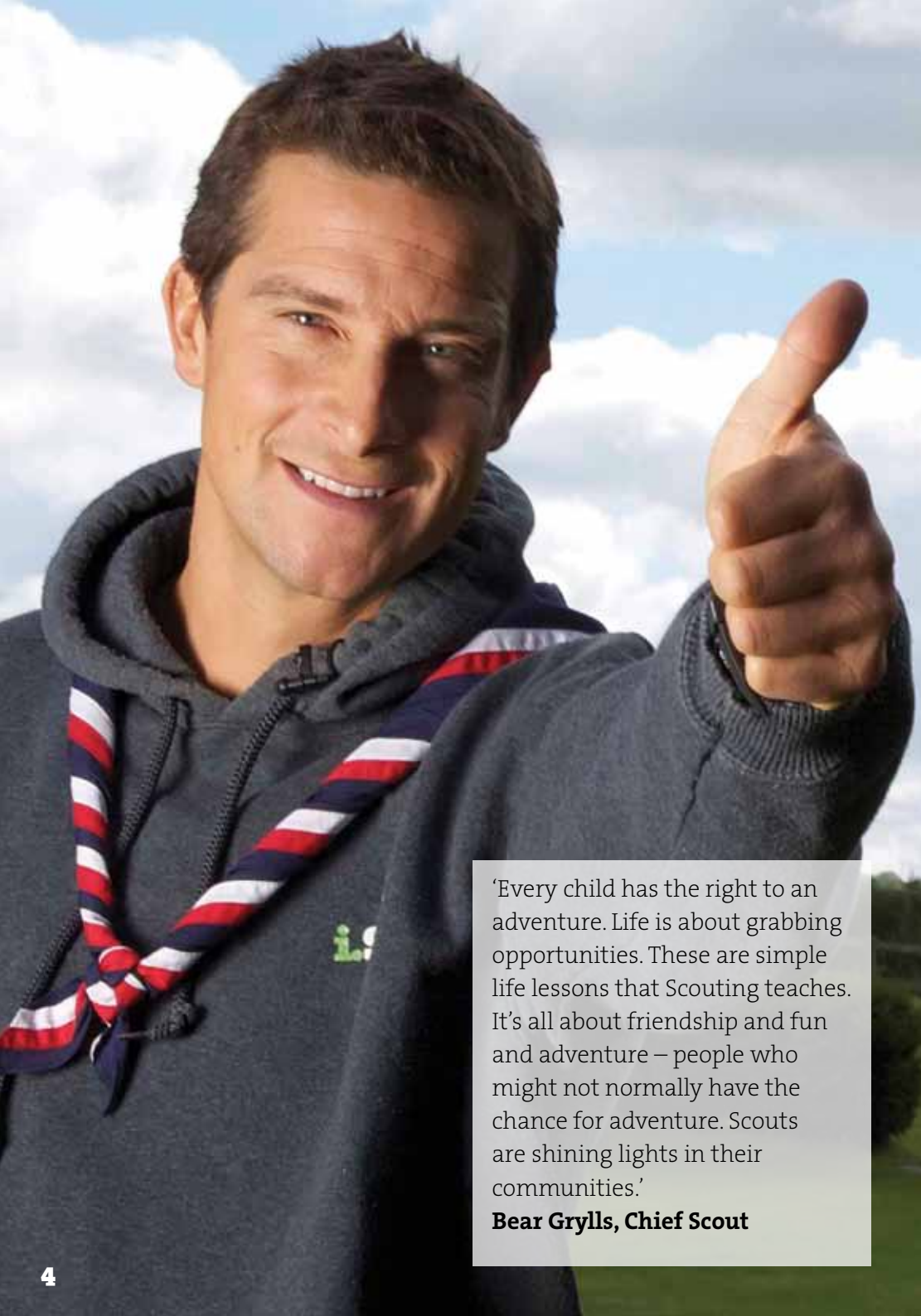
Offering over 200 different activities from abseiling and archery to drama, street sports and water zorbing, Scouting helps 6-25 year olds grow in confidence, achieve their full potential and become active members of their communities.

This is only possible through the efforts of 100,000 volunteers who also enjoy the fun and friendship of Scouting.

The Scout Association is a registered charity in the UK and part of a worldwide movement of 31 million Scouts working for peace and global friendship.

Hailsham and Heathfield
Scouts repainting the
Longman of Wilmington
as part of Scout
Community Week 2013.





‘Every child has the right to an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. These are simple life lessons that Scouting teaches. It’s all about friendship and fun and adventure – people who might not normally have the chance for adventure. Scouts are shining lights in their communities.’

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

**Famous former
Scouts include:**

Buzz Aldrin
Sir David
Attenborough
David Beckham
David Bowie
Sir Richard Branson
Harrison Ford
Sir Paul McCartney
Andy Murray
Barack Obama
Jamie Oliver
Keith Richards

**Our Scout
Ambassadors
include:**

Julia Bradbury
Lord Sebastian Coe
Chris Evans
Richard Harpin
Ian Hislop
Justin King CBE
Bonita Norris
Phil Packer MBE
Ed Stafford
Dawud Wharnsby

WE ARE...
ADVENTURERS
FUTURE MAKERS
GAME CHANGERS
GIRLS AND BOYS
VOLUNTEERS
CHARITY WORKERS
COMMUNITY FOCUSED
INSPIRERS
GROWING
INCLUSIVE
SHAPED BY YOUNG
PEOPLE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE



LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

Scouting changes lives. We make a positive difference in our communities and improve the life chances and outcomes of young people from every background. We get the chance to work with young people at the most important time in their lives: their childhood.

Scouting is about opportunity

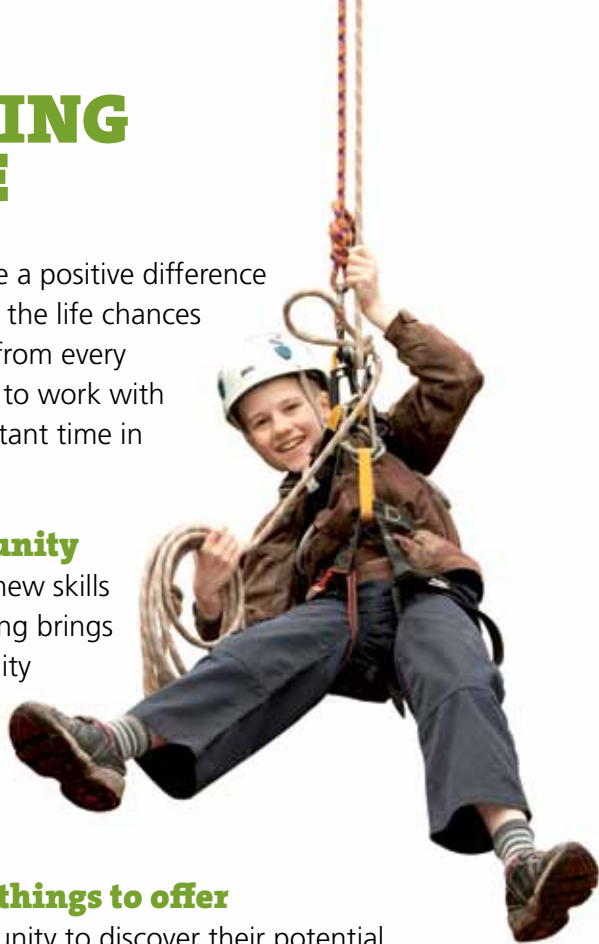
From support and friendship to new skills and renewed confidence, Scouting brings a spirit of optimism and practicality to its work. We welcome all young people into Scouting and we believe passionately in what we do.

Young people have great things to offer

In Scouting, they get the opportunity to discover their potential, benefit from a positive, supportive environment and make a difference.

Whether it's setting up an internet cafe in their community, going on a canoeing trip with new friends, taking a starring role in a Scout show or leading a trip abroad, we lift spirits, recognise achievement and raise aspiration.

All this is made possible by basic facilities and small teams of dedicated adult volunteers. Positive role models are vitally important. We want to inspire a new generation filled with a generosity of spirit and a determination to make things better for themselves and their communities.



BEAVER SCOUTS


6-8 years

'I play games, go on visits and help others.'
Emily

Easily recognised by their turquoise sweatshirts, Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They usually meet together once a week in a Beaver Scout Colony.

'This year we went to see a coastguard helicopter. All the Beavers got to go inside and we all had great fun. I wanted to fly it, but they wouldn't let me - not yet!'

Philip



**'I camp, have fun
and learn new things'
Peter**

The question should be:
what don't Cubs do?
From swimming and music to
exploring and computing and
collecting, Cubs enjoy an action
packed programme.

Cubs enjoy days out to places
like the zoo, theme parks or a
farm and get to sample their
first camping experience.

'For our Caring Challenge, we
went to the Royal Oldham
Hospital, met the doctors
and nurses, looked down a
microscope; then we did a quiz.
Next week we're off to join the
Ancient Tree Hunt.'

Jemima

CUB SCOUTS
8-10 ½

SCOUTS

10½ - 14

'I go outdoors, get to go mountain biking and meet up with friends'
Rasheed

The Scout section is about spending time with friends, working as part of a team and participating fully in the adventure of life. Scouts take part in a balanced programme that helps them to find out about the world where they live. They'll discover talents they never knew they had. Being outdoors is important and half the programme is given over to taking part in both Scouting skills, such as camping and cooking as well as adventurous activities, from abseiling to yachting.



'I went in some caves at Blackmore Park, crawling underground. It was cold and damp, but we had head torches and stuff so we could see where we were going. There were high and low bits as well, so you didn't know what to expect. Would I do it again? Of course I would.'

Zoe




EXPLORER SCOUTS

14-18

'I choose my own adventure' **Rebecca**

Explorer Scouts get the chance to meet up with like minded people in their area. By doing this, they get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones their Unit organises. From snow sports to environmental projects, camps, hikes and expeditions, Explorers have a key role in deciding what they do.

A group of four young men, Explorer Scouts, are hiking up a steep, rocky hillside. They are wearing blue shirts, dark trousers, and large backpacks. The background shows a vast, hilly landscape with green vegetation and distant mountains under a clear sky. The Scouts are in various stages of ascent, with one leading the group and others following closely behind.

'We went to the Peak District to do our Duke of Edinburgh Award. They basically dropped us off and we made our own way home. We stayed in a hostel the first night and camped the second. It was cold but spectacular!'

Matthew



YOUNG LEADERS

‘I pass my skills on to younger Scouts’
Joe, 15

Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts who spend some time helping younger members of Scouting. The Young Leaders’ Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals. It allows them to make a valuable contribution to their community and give service to others.



‘Helping out at Beavers only takes up an hour and half, so I can get my schoolwork

done beforehand. Sometimes during exams I won’t go to Explorers or Beavers. Scouting is flexible enough to allow me to do that. I use my map reading skills in Geography and Geology. And teamwork helps in all subjects.’

Young Leader

SCOUT NETWORK

18-25

‘We do our own thing – and help others.’
Josh

Network members take part in activities which they often organise themselves. They meet when they want to, perhaps weekly, maybe monthly. One week, they might be teaching climbing to some young people. Another, it'll be an informal meeting at someone's house to plan the summer expedition to Canada. It's what they make of it.





Queen's Scouts braving the rain at Windsor

'Scout Network helps me to explore the outdoors; it allows me to experience new activities like caving and meet people from all over the world through expeditions and international camps. It's Scouting at its best, what is there not to like?'

Matthew, 24
Scout Network

SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT



'I provide support where it's needed most.'
Pat

What happens if you have lots of skills, heaps of enthusiasm, but little time? Well you can still volunteer for Scouting and one option is Scout Active Support.

Scout Active Support is group of adults who have one thing in common - a wish to provide support to Scouting. A Scout Active Support Unit welcomes adults of all ages, interests and backgrounds. There is no need to have been involved in Scouting before.



'As a Scout Active Support member, I enjoy the flexibility that it gives me to help out with sections and events as and when I can. I've just spent a term helping new Leaders get the hang of their Cub Pack.'

Marion



HRH The Duchess of Cambridge became an Occasional Helper in 2012

VOLUNTEER

Scouting is about fun and friendship for adults too. And with 38,000 young people still on our waiting lists there's no better time to get involved. You can give as much or as little time as you like and you can fit volunteering around your work and family commitments.

Here's what you can expect:

- Use your current skills and gain new ones
- Try new things and gain qualifications such as First Aid
- Become an active member of your community
- Meet new people and have fun!

We have opportunities:

- to support young people
- in behind the scenes roles – from decorating to driving the minibus
- to help lead our Groups, Districts, Counties and Regions as volunteer managers
- to volunteer in a District Scout Shop

EQUIPPED FOR ADVENTURE

Scout SHOPS

scouts.org.uk/shop

Wouldn't it be good if you could buy your uniform, books, badges resources all in one place? Well, you can. Scout Shops offers the widest range of official Scouting goods anywhere online and through its local District Scout Shops. And the best thing is, every penny you spend goes back into the Movement.

All our products can be bought online at scouts.org.uk/shop or through our network of District Scout Shops. Talk to your local group to find out where your nearest Scout Shop is or contact us on either 01903 766921 or shop@scouts.org.uk

Web: [Scouts.org.uk/shop](https://scouts.org.uk/shop)

Twitter: [@ScoutShops](https://twitter.com/ScoutShops)

Facebook: facebook.com/ScoutShops

Pinterest: pinterest.com/ScoutShopsUK/

- Scout Shops is The Scout Association's official shop
- All of our profits are returned to Scouting
- The widest range of official Scouting merchandise available online
- The only supplier of official Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Network branded goods
- A great range of outdoor equipment and casual clothing
- A wealth of leader resources, including many that are free



FULLY COVERED

If you're interested in joining Scouting, the last thing you'll want to think about is insurance.

Thankfully you won't need to. Unity (Scout Insurance Services) has arranged insurance policies for The Scout Association to cover you.

As well as the cover arranged through The Scout Association to protect its people, Unity offers insurance policies to cover a Scout Group's buildings, equipment, minibuses and money as well as events, such as overseas travel, camps, fundraising activities and family days.

For over 80 years Unity has provided bespoke policies and protection to The Scout Association and its members. We are a specialist independent insurance broker focused on the needs of Scouting and other UK youth organisations, charities and voluntary groups.

Unity is owned by The Scout Association, with all our profits returned to Scouting.

Web: scoutinsurance.co.uk

Twitter: @ScoutInsurance

Unity
scout insurance services

UP FOR THE ADVENTURE...?



National Scout Activity Centres offer challenge and adventure to Scouts, schools and other youth organisations through our network of nine UK centres. We believe in helping all young people fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We make outdoor learning affordable and we're passionate about what we do.

We provide an outdoor learning service tailored to each of our customer's needs - whether it's one of our integrated progressive learning plans for schools or support with badge work, logistics or camp planning for Scout groups.

- Experts in delivering informal learning through adventure
- Over one hundred years' experience in the outdoors
- Camping and back-to-basics experiences
- Indoor lodges and facilities
- Flexible learning packages and over 50 adventurous activities
- Strong links with the National Curriculum

SCOUT 
Activity Centres

For more information, a brochure, free lesson plans and resources and to join the conversation....

Web: scouts.org.uk/sac

Facebook and Youtube: [/ScoutActivityCentres](https://www.facebook.com/ScoutActivityCentres)

Twitter: [@ScoutCentres](https://twitter.com/ScoutCentres)



LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

THE **LARGEST** CO-EDUCATIONAL
YOUTH MOVEMENT IN THE UK

536,408 MEMBERS

415,453 **120,955**



IN JANUARY 2012

**THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE
BECAME A VOLUNTEER**



THIS IS ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY THE EFFORTS OF **100,000 ADULT LEADERS**

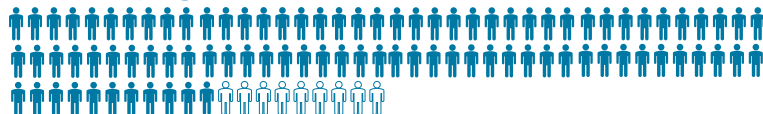
**WE STILL NEED
MORE
ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

200 DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES



38,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING TO EXPERIENCE THE ADVENTURE

91% OF SCOUT VOLUNTEERS
SAY THAT SCOUTING HAS HELPED THEM DEVELOP KEY SKILLS FOR LIFE



37,000 HOURS

TIME SCOUT LEADERS CONTRIBUTE EVERY YEAR
ALL OF THIS TIME AMOUNTS TO

£380 MILLION WORTH OF UNPAID YOUTH WORK

SCOUTS.ORG.UK/GET-INVOLVED



GET INVOLVED

If you would like to experience the fun, challenge and adventure of Scouting visit

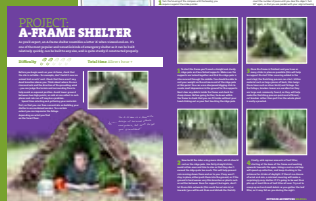
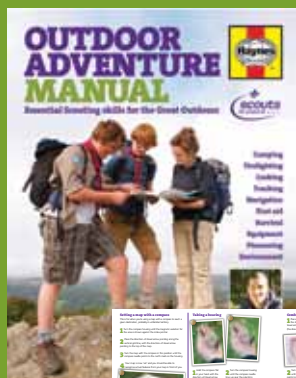
scouts.org.uk/get-involved

0845 300 1818

Your local contact:

The Outdoor Adventure Manual

Essential Scouting skills for the Great Outdoors



Introduced by Bear Grylls, this inspirational manual is just as useful planning a day's hike as camping in the back of beyond. Featuring over 30 outdoor projects including how to build a tepee and A-Frame shelter, plus step-by-step guides to a range of key backwoods skills such as navigating, camping, fire lighting and cooking, it is illustrated with hundreds of colour photographs.

Content includes:

- **Camping:** tents, wild camping, shelters, planning and packing.
- **Food:** wild plants, foraging, fishing, backwoods cooking, outdoor ovens.
- **The world around you:** geography, environment, weather and wildlife.
- **Navigation:** using the sun and stars, maps, compasses and GPS.
- **Fires and firelighting:** quite simply all you need to know.
- **Knots untangled:** knots, lashings and pioneering projects.
- **Safety and first aid:** dealing with emergency situations.

Available from scouts.org.uk/shop
at a special Scout price of **£14 (RRP £21.99)**