

# **HUNGRY HILL EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT**

## **A GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS**

### **What is an Explorer Scout Unit and what does it aim to achieve?**

Explorer Scouts Units were formed in 2002 after the Scout Association performed a major review of all its activities, members and uniforms. This review found that existing Scout programme was not suitable for the lifestyles of young people over the age of 14, and for many years the movement had been losing members aged 14 and 15 as the existing Scout section did not provide the flexibility and activities required for the older members. Venture Scout Units (that covered the ages of 16 to 20) also found that many more members left at 18 to go to university, and the lifestyles of members at 16 was very different to the lifestyles of members at 19. Therefore it was decided to change the sections for the older members of the movement, by introducing two new sections. Explorer Scout was created to accommodate members from 14 to 18 years of age and The Scout Network was created to accommodate members from 18 to 25 years of age.

Explorer Scouting is designed to be flexible, in order to meet the physical, intellectual and social needs of young people. They aim to teach teamwork and leadership skills through an exciting and fun programme. Explorer Scouting is run at a district level rather than on a group level and in Guildford East Districts there are three units covering the geographical area, however Explorer Scouting is structured such that members can participate in meetings held at any of these units, plus additional activities organised at the District level.

Units meetings are designed to be flexible, reducing the number of meetings around important events in young people's lives (for example during exams).

### **When and where do Hungry Hill Unit Meet?**

Hungry Hill Unit typically meet weekly during term time on a Wednesday night. Meetings typically start at 7:30pm and finish between 9:30pm and 10:00pm. Our permanent meeting place is 1<sup>st</sup> Ripley Scout Headquarters in Rose Lane, Ripley however we do occasionally meet in 1<sup>st</sup> Horsley Scout Headquarters and at other locations. We have access to a minibus and regularly use this to transport members to activities.

### **How do I become a member?**

Provided you are aged between 14 and 18 (our unit is mixed) membership is obtained simply by coming regularly to our meetings. After a short introductory period, you will be asked whether you wish to join (or become invested) into the Unit. At that point we shall ask that you have completed the membership award (by participating in a few meetings) and then undertake the Scout Promise.

### **Do I have to wear a Uniform?**

The simple answer to this is yes. The Scout association is a uniformed group and therefore members will need to have an Explorer Scout unit (by the time they are invested). The uniform consists of a Brown shirt or blouse, navy blue trousers or skirt and a District Unit scarf. If you have come from a Scout Troop or Guide Company you can continue to wear the group name badge along with the District and unit badges. Whilst we have a uniform, we do not wear this for our weekly meetings, saving it for special occasions only!

### **How much does it cost to be a member?**

Our unit fees are paid three times a year typically in January, May and September and are £23 each time. This includes the fees that the unit has to pass onto the district (which includes insurance) and the general costs of the basic activities and unit equipment etc. For more expensive activities such as Laserquest, Tenpin bowling, Ice skating, climbing etc as well as camps we will ask you to pay for the cost of the activity. We also run fundraising events through-out the year and ask members to assist us in this in order to keep costs to a minimum. We keep our costs as low as possible in order not to exclude anyone and unit members are always welcome to see the unit accounts.

### **What can I expect to be able to do?**

Explorer Scouts are encouraged to develop their own programme of activities and therefore the possibilities are endless. There are a few activities that not allowed for safety reasons and all adventurous activities are carried out in accordance to the Scout Association's rules by qualified instructors.

### **Do I have to do badge work?**

The Explorer Scout section does have an award scheme and this now links in very closely to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Activities carried out for our awards or the Duke of Edinburgh Award can be used towards both schemes. However badge work is not compulsory, however by attending regularly it is hoped everyone will achieve something.

### **Does the Unit have an annual Summer Camp / Expedition?**

As a district we intend to organise a Summer Camp or Expedition each year. Some will be based in the UK, and some will be based abroad. Our Summer Camps are the pinnacle of the Scouting year, were members get the opportunity to try out some adventurous activities and put into practice the skills they have learnt throughout the year. We hope that all members will try and attend this very special event.

### **Who is responsible for the Unit?**

Hungry Hill Unit currently has two adult leaders and they are responsible for the overseeing of the unit. These leaders are also supported by the District to make sure a well balanced programme is delivered.

Our leaders are :

Kevin Yeo (Tel 01483 454615) – Hungry Hill Explorer Scout Leader

Nigel Smith (Tel 07747 603703) – Hungry Hill Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

Bernard Pentecost (Tel 01483 560379) – District Explorer Scout Commissioner

### **Does the Unit need any help?**

Scouting relies on adult volunteers in order to deliver its programme. We are always looking for help, whether as a uniformed leader, or to provide specialist skills instruction. We also recommend that parents or guardians that have previously supported their local scout group (in fundraising or as a member of their Group Executive) continue to do so. The unit has formed partnership agreements with local Scout groups in order to have access to headquarters and equipment, in return we offer continued support for each individual Scout Group. In addition providing support to our members (by driving them to meetings or activities) is always appreciated.