

# **A MESSAGE TO PARENTS – WHAT IT MEANS WHEN YOUR FAMILY JOINS 1<sup>ST</sup> RIPLEY SCOUT GROUP**

*If you want to put your child's name down to join our Beavers, Cubs or Scouts  
please read the following.*

Children do many out-of-school activities where the deal is:  
The parent pays a fee to an individual, or a company, who is running a business providing French lessons, dance lessons, football training or whatever. The child takes part for the set sessions. The parent does not have to participate in the activity.

This is not wrong, BUT

## **RIPLEY SCOUT GROUP IS DIFFERENT!**

Membership provides something **for your whole family**, not just for one child. If you want to join the Group, do please be aware of this.

Why? Read on .....

### **1. About the activities**

You can do no better than read the Minutes of the most recent AGM, which lists a SMALL selection of the activities the Section Leaders provided for children in the last year. These include:

Visits from emergency services staff –fire-fighters, RNLI, A&E  
Hamburger making, shell wind-chimes, baked apples and conker competition

Air rifle shooting and archery at Bentley Copse

Easter Egg hunt at Newlands Corner

Camping at Tilford

Making rafts to sail on the river

Cooking for the Farmer's market

Making compasses and elementary survival kits

Orienteering on the North Downs

Dry-slope skiing

Back-packing in the New Forest

Camping at Kandersteg, Switzerland

Camping on Dartmoor

Building coracles

Visit to HMS Chatham and the Royal Navy centre at Devonport

...not to mention '100 years of Scouting' centenary celebrations and events throughout the year

...or all the badges gained such as Cyclist, Book reader, Scientist, Athletics, Camper, Art, Chef, Entertainer, Chief Scout's Award

...or the International Friendship Award gained by the Group as a whole for activities in connection with Nepal, such as a visit from the Ghurkas.

Perhaps it is not immediately apparent but a huge number of Mums, Dads and siblings had an excellent time too. They splashed about in rivers, cooked a billion beefburgers in one afternoon, shimmied up (and down) rope-ladders (but only if they wanted to), rode go-karts, stood at freezing checkpoints on the night-watches for orienteers, planted hedges, sang their socks off (NOT round a campfire, although that too), ran a room full of science experiments for the under-8s, identified trees, built a bonfire-float like a tree-house and, yes, swept the floor and re-painted some doors and cleaned the cooker, and came to the AGM, and strode personfully about putting up marquees, and endlessly made each other laugh.

Strangely enough, we NEED you, the parents and families, to have this much fun with us...

Why? Read on ....

## 2. About the money

When you join the Group, you pay a membership fee either termly or yearly. **Much of the fee** goes direct to the Scouting Association. It covers all the training and certification of Leaders, safety and CRB checking, maintenance of camp grounds, special District events and so on, which allow the Scouting movement to continue to exist as an international body.

**Some** of that membership fee goes to the 1<sup>st</sup> Ripley Scout Group to fund the uniform and equipment of the Section Leaders (ie the uniformed adults who run the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts sessions). Section Leaders provide every minute of their time **free to you** –not only running the evenings, camps and events but also planning and setting up the activities, attending Group meetings, getting trained, keeping their training up to date and so on.

**Very little** of the membership fee pays for the activities that **your child will do** during each term or holiday. Sometimes there is an additional cost for camp or a special activity, but even these are subsidised heavily by the Group providing the joining fee, transport and essential equipment, so that usually the only cost to you is for your child's food.

Most of the costs for the Ripley activities are funded **by money-raising events run by the Group itself**, perhaps once or twice a year. In this way the Group tries to keep the cost of joining down to the absolute minimum, so it is as easy as possible for any family to join whatever their means. Therefore, **YOU** must be aware that **YOU** are expected to **join in** and support the fund-raising activities, or the Group cannot continue.

## 3. About the facilities

Ripley Scouts Group has facilities which are the envy of Surrey, and will be used by **your child**, week in, week out. On a safe, green site backing on to fields, there is a meeting-room with kitchen, shower rooms and, outside, a climbing wall, storage and parking. For the past 98 years, recognising the outstanding input of the Leaders who are fully occupied running the activities, it has been **parents** who have provided and maintained these facilities for their children. When you join, we **will** be requiring **every parent** to play a part in small (yes small) domestic /

maintenance jobs, usually as a one-off once a year (and you are allowed to choose what suits you). Please do not be astonished or surprised that this aspect of your involvement is part of the deal.

**SO**

Sign here mentally to say that you understand all the above and want to join us (you do, you know). We look forward to great times that not only your child, but also you and your family, will never forget.