

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Here at K2 ESU we are committed to giving all our Members the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Established in 1956 by its Founder and Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical cultural and adventurous activities. It is designed to support the personal and social development of young people aged 14-25, regardless of gender, background or ability.

The Award offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time. It runs in parallel to the Scout Awards so that one activity counts for both awards.

There are three levels of Award within The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

- Bronze - for those aged 14 and over**
- Silver - for those aged 15 and over**
- Gold - for those aged 16 and over**

Each level of Award is split into four Sections:

- Volunteering - encourages participants to help individuals and the community**
- Skills - can cover almost any hobby, skill or interest of the participant**
- Physical - focuses on sport, dance and fitness**
- Expedition - includes training for, planning and completing a journey on foot or horseback, or by boat or cycle**

Your child may have previously been or currently be involved in the Scheme through their school. If this is the case they can either transfer to the Scouts as their operating authority, or continue with the Award at their school, and activities undertaken with us at K2 would count. Please speak to Moz if this is the case.

Most new members however will be new to the Award and will need to sign up to get involved. To do this, we have to send off for a Record Book. These cost £13 for Bronze and Silver and £18.50 for Gold. If you want your son or daughter to start on the scheme, please send a cheque for the relevant amount, made payable to 'K2 Explorer Scout Unit' with your child's name and 'D of E Bronze/Silver/Gold*' written clearly on the back (*as appropriate). Cheques should be handed in to our Unit Treasurer.

Please note that participation in the DofE is optional, but we do recommend it.



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K2 ESU

WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE



*Important forms
inside - please fill in
and return as soon
as you can*

K2 Explorer Scout Unit - Information for parents & carers

What is Scouting?

Scouting is a global, educational youth Movement, providing young people with adventure, fun and challenge.

With almost 500,000 members, The Scout Association is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the UK. Its clear purpose is:

To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

Developing Young People

In Scouting, we believe that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing', when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Development is guided by the Scout Programme - a continuous progression of training, activities, badges and awards for all young people aged 6 to 25.

The Programme is designed to suit 5 core age groups:

- Beaver Scouts 6 - 8
- Cub Scouts 8 - 10½
- Scouts 10½ - 14
- Explorer Scouts 14 - 18
- Scout Network 18 - 25

In addition to meeting nights



your child should expect opportunities for outings, indoor residential and camping experiences and other challenges suited to their age and ability.

The Programme is tailored to the interests, needs and pace of each individual, but also recognises group achievement. Explorer Scouts are encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme which runs in parallel to the Scout Awards scheme. The Explorer Belt is open to those aged 16 & over.

Our Responsibilities

In Scouting, our adults must operate responsibly in accordance with our policies on Child Protection, Equal Opportunities and Safety in Scouting. The Scout Association applies stringent vetting procedures, including criminal record checks, for all adult appointments. All adults must abide by our Young People First code of behaviour. Our policies and procedures are designed to keep young people safe from harm whilst they enjoy the fun and excitement of their Scouting adventure.

The Promise

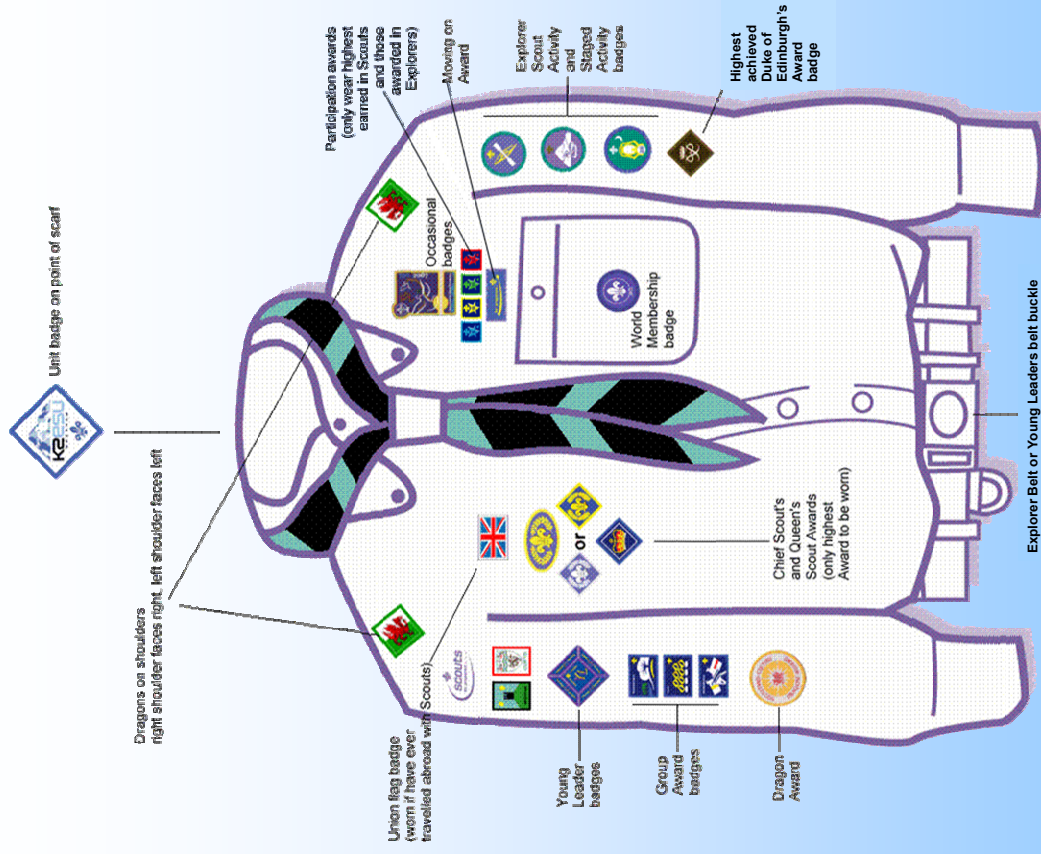
All members make this simple Promise when they are 'invested' and become part of the Worldwide Scout Movement.

*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 Promise is made easier for younger children and is also available in different forms that recognise the country of origin that an individual belongs to, and their God.

Membership of The Scout Association is voluntary and open to all people, male and female, aged over 5¾, regardless of faith, nationality, race, culture, mental or physical ability, or other circumstances. Membership is confirmed by making a simple Promise.

Position of badges on Explorer Scout Uniform



If your son or daughter has been a member of Scouts prior to joining the Unit, we'd ask if they could take the Scout Membership badge, dragons, Wrexham and Clwyd badges off their Scout uniform and sew them onto their Explorer shirt.

Please note, while all K2 members are expected to have an Explorer Scout uniform shirt and District necker, on most evenings Members wear either the Unit polo shirt or hoodie. These are available for order from the Unit.

For more information see the enclosed order form

Expedition/Camp Kit List

This is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award recommended kit list. To get used to taking it on expedition, we recommend you bring all of this on every camp, unless otherwise told. Quantities of some items depends on level and duration of expedition.

TO WEAR WALKING

- 1 x pair walking boots (broken in)
- 1 x pair walking socks
- 1 x thermal top / tee shirt
- 1 x shirt
- 1 x sweater (woollen or fleece)
- 1 x walking trousers (warm; not jeans)

PERSONAL KIT (to carry)

- 1 x large rucksack (approximately 55-65litre capacity)
- 2x strong, large plastic bags (to line your rucksack)
- 1 x sleeping mat
- 1 x sleeping bag (in a waterproof bag)
- 1 x sleeping bag inner (optional)
- 1 x survival bag
- 1 x personal first aid kit
- 1 x watch
- 1 x whistle
- maps
- small quantity of money (optional)
- 1 x notebook & pen/pencil
- 1 x torch & spare battery (e.g. small Maglite or Petzl headtorch)
- 1 x emergency food rations (not to be eaten until the end!)
- 1 x water bottle (e.g. Sigg or strong plastic, to hold 1 to 2 litres)
- 1 x knife, fork, spoon
- 1 x pocket knife (small)
- 1 x plate/bowl
- 1 x mug
- 1 x box of matches (sealed in a dry container or bag)
- 1 x wash kit (small)
- 1 x towel (small)
- 1 x cagoule/coat (it must be waterproof and windproof)
- 3x pairs underwear
- 2x pairs walking socks
- 2x tee shirts
- 1 x shirt (woollen, cotton or fleece)

- 1 x spare sweater (woollen or fleece)
- 1 x spare walking trousers (not jeans)
- 1 x pair of trainers (optional)
- 1 x hat (warm)
- 1 x pair gloves (woollen)
- 1 x pair shorts (if appropriate)
- 1 x sunhat & sun cream (if appropriate)
- 1 x thermal long Johns (optional)
- 1 x pair gaiters (optional)
- 1 x waterproof over trousers (essential for Gold & wild country)

GROUP KIT (to carry between the team)

- 1-2x tents
- 2-3x stoves (& fuel)
- 2-3x cooking pots
- 2x scourers
- maps (1:50 000 / 1:25 000)
- 1 compass (Silva type)
- map cases
- 1 x camera (optional)
- 2x tea towels
- 1 x pack of cards (optional)
- 5x plastic bags (for rubbish etc.)
- food (small & lightweight)



65 litre rucksack

Our young members are supported by almost 100,000 adult volunteers. Adult members of The Association serve as Commissioners (volunteer managers), Leaders, Section Assistants, Administrators, and in many other roles. The support of non-member adults is also welcomed, particularly from parent helpers.

An International Movement

Scouting is currently active in 218 countries and territories with a global membership of over 28 million. Two thirds of the international membership is in developing countries. The Association promotes international opportunities including camps and projects, with the aim of strengthening links between The Scout Association in the UK and other members of The World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Today, Scouts across the world are involved in development projects as diverse as peace education, drug abuse prevention, provision of clean water and sanitation, literacy, renewable energies and environmental conservation.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact the Explorer Scout Leader, Moz, on 07779 272340 or via emailing wmmmoz@googlemail.com K2 ESU have a website which we'd encourage you to visit. It

When and where do we meet?

We meet once a week during the school term on Monday nights usually from 7.30pm until 9pm. For about half of our meetings we're at our Scout hut on Dean Road, but we do get out quite a bit! We issue programmes but these are liable to change. If you're unsure, check online, or phone Moz on 07779 272340. Please don't leave it until Monday night to find out what's going on so you have plenty of notice in case, for example, your child needs to bring something with them or we are meeting elsewhere.

includes up to date programmes, reports and photos of our activities. You can find it at:

www.k2esu.org.uk

For more general information about Scouting, contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818. It operates 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12 noon on Saturday. Or you can visit the website: www.scouts.org.uk

What do Members need?

For the first few meetings your child needs nothing at all to experience the adventure of Scouting.

Once your child is sure they want to become a member, and we've received the first payment of subs (see 'what will it cost'), they'll be given a neckerchief and Unit badge and arrangements will be made for them to be invested.

They will also need an Explorer Scout shirt, available from Wrexham Scout Shop, in Wrexham District Scout HQ, Station Approach. The shop is open Wednesday nights in

school terms from 6.30-8.30pm. Details of Unit merchandise are on the enclosed form.

What will it cost?

We charge subscriptions ('subs') to cover costs of equipment and the upkeep of the meeting place. This also includes the Explorer Scouts' annual membership fee paid to headquarters for the day-to-day running of The Scout Association and includes insurance for all members.

The annual subs is £75 and you can pay this preferably in one go, once a year at the start of January, or split it up into £25 3 times a year at the start of January, May and September. Cheques should be

made payable to 'K2 Explorer Scout Unit', have your child's name and SUBS written clearly on the back, and handed in to our Unit Treasurer at any K2 meeting.

An extra charge is normally required for special events, camps, and other outings.

Cheques

Please help us and our Unit Treasurer by clearly marking your cheques. Your child's name and what the cheque is for should be written clearly on the back. It is no good writing this information on the envelope. We prefer not to receive cash.

Gift Aid

If you pay tax, we can use Gift Aid to claim 28p for every £1.00 you give in subs or donations. All you need to do is sign the Gift Aid form that forms part of this information leaflet. All the money will be used to benefit members of the Scout Group.

Leadership

The adults who run Scout Groups are called Leaders. They are unpaid volunteers who are required to undertake training or learning appropriate to their role. Explorer Scout Leaders are responsible to a District Explorer Scout Commissioner, who in turn is responsible to a District Commissioner.

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints please speak to the Section Leader. If your concern is about the Leader please contact the District Explorer Scout Commissioner. If not available or you are still not satisfied try the District Commissioner whose details are available from the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

Permission

It is taken as understood that you give your permission for your child to take part in Scout activities during the normal meeting time.

Your permission is sometimes needed for specific events, camps and activities that may take place at a different place or time. You will be asked to complete a parental consent form in such circumstances.

Health & Diet

It is essential that you inform the Section Leader if your son / daughter suffers from any medical condition or if they require any specialist medicines or treatment.

It is also necessary for information to be supplied to the Section Leader about any dietary needs of the member. Please complete the details on the attached form and update the Leaders if circumstances change.

Helping Scouting

The Scout Association is run by volunteers and it encourages parents and carers to assist in the leadership team on a regular or an occasional basis. Any support that you or your family can offer Scouting is welcomed, appreciated and valued.

Help is particularly appreciated with practical skills, outdoor activities, as well as with transport, and lending equipment. You may also be willing to assist occasionally with the Section

meeting night, with administration and fund-raising.

Please fill in the section under 'You can join the adventure too' on the attached form. We really do need your help.

Supporting Your Child

The Scout Association encourages you to support your child's involvement in Scout activities. Please:

- Ensure you are happy with, and fully aware of, the way your child gets to Explorer Scouts and gets back, whether you give them a lift or they make their own way

- Encourage your child to arrive on time and ensure that they are aware of what they need to bring or what they need to wear

- Take an interest in what they're doing in Explorer Scouts

- Return forms and payment on time. If you have difficulties completing forms or making payments then please speak in confidence to the Explorer Scout Leader.

- Inform the Explorer Scout Leader of any additional needs that your child may have and any medication required e.g. inhaler.

- Inform the Explorer Scout Leader of any change in the family situation that is likely to affect your child's behaviour. It is not necessary to give details. All information will be treated in confidence.

K2 ESU Code of Conduct

The Explorer Scout Unit Forum came up with this Code of Conduct. Members are expected to follow it - sanctions for not doing so were also agreed by the Explorer Scouts and are below.

- DO** try to attend as much as the programme as you can
- DO** wear polo shirts, hoodies or uniform to every meeting unless told otherwise
- DON'T** let games get out of hand
- DON'T** expect someone else to do it for you
- DO** turn up on time to meetings and activities
- DO** have fun
- DON'T** exclude other people or form gangs
- DO** listen to others and respect their opinions
- DON'T** miss Committee meetings if you are supposed to be there
- DON'T** spoil things for other people
- DO** tell your mates about K2 and invite them to come and see what it's like
- DO** treat everyone equally
- DON'T** smoke during meetings
- DON'T** hurt people, physically or emotionally
- DO** be careful when doing something that may be dangerous
- DO** act in a mature way
- DON'T** be an idiot
- DO** take an active part in activities and meetings
- DO** write name and what it's for on back of cheques
- DON'T** leave it until the last minute to find out what's going on
- DO** help others
- DON'T** damage property or possessions
- DO** tell people if you can't make meetings

In order for us to maintain the running of the Unit safely, and in a way that ensures that every Member is able to enjoy themselves and get as much out of their time with us as possible, we may need to use sanctions to persuade those who go against the Code of Conduct that they shouldn't. These sanctions vary depending on what has been done or not done. They are...

- Removal from an activity for a short period of time
- Being made to do a chore
- Verbal warning recorded by the Explorer Scout Leader
- On the 3rd verbal warning the Explorer Scout will be banned from attending the next activity or meeting (if uniform is not worn to a 3rd meeting, they will be sent home)
- In some cases an immediate ban may be deserved, a ban of longer than one activity or meeting may be deserved or it may be carried over to a major camp or activity
- Should a person be banned a letter will be sent to their parent or carer
- If a person does not attend Monday evening meetings for 5 weeks, they will not be able to attend a camp or activity until they have attended 5 Monday evenings
- If property is maliciously or recklessly damaged it will be paid for
- In exceptional circumstances Explorer Scouts who severely or continually break the Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the Unit
- Should a criminal act be committed we will not hesitate in involving the Police