

1st Mossley Scouts

Information Pack

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Dear Parents, Scouts and anyone thinking of joining us,

The Scout Movement started 100 years ago, almost by accident, following the publication of a magazine by Sir Robert Baden-Powell called "Scouting for Boys". Sir Robert was a professional soldier and whilst defending the small town of Mafeking in South Africa against the Boer army, he had observed how useful youngsters could make themselves. This started a train of thought, that, when he came home after the war, induced him to introduce groups of young boys from different walks of life to his ideas. He wanted to encourage personal initiative and working together. He ran an experimental camp, on the now famous Brownsea Island, before he then started his scouting magazine. Youngsters reading the magazine formed themselves into groups doing the things he wrote about and he found he had a youth organisation on his hands. Today, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 countries and territories, and the Movement is still growing.

Scouting is now one of the biggest Movements in the world. Beavers are the youngest, progressing through Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network sections which between them provide Scouting from age 6 through to 25.

Here in Mossley, our Scout Group has Beaver, Cub and Scout sections. Scouts can later move on to the Explorers unit in Congleton which is run by the District.

Boys and Girls may join our Scouts when aged 10 but the usual joining age is between 10½ and 11. Scouts can stay until 14½ but usually move on (to Explorers we hope) when they are 14. In practice there is a transition period from Cubs to Scouts and Scouts to Explorers.

Meeting Place:

All three sections of 1st Mossley Scout Group meet at: The Old School
122, Leek Road
Mossley
Congleton
Cheshire, CW12 3HX

Meeting Day and Times:

- Our Scouts normally meet on Monday evenings during school term times. Some activities may be arranged for other days and times, eg special District events, Camps, wide games, visits etc.,
- We start at 7:00pm and aim to finish for 8.45pm or soon after.

Aims of scouting:

The published purpose of Scouting is:

"to contribute to 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."

We try to fulfil this purpose by encouraging our Scouts to take part in a varied range of activities which are intended to challenge them both mentally and physically and to be a combination of learning and having fun. Along the way we are looking for them to work together and show initiative for themselves in ideas and in getting things done.

With this in mind and hoping to build up these values from the outset, we ask all recruits at the moment of joining us, to make the Scout Promise with these words:

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.

(or

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best
To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen,
To help other people
And to keep the Scout Law).

The Scout Law is a code of conduct we ask them to keep to in their lives

A Scout is to be trusted
A Scout is loyal
A Scout is friendly and considerate
A Scout is a brother/sister to all Scouts
A Scout has courage in all his/her difficulties
A Scout has respect for him/herself and for others.
A Scout makes good use of his/her time and is careful of possessions and property

Uniform:

The Scout movement is a uniformed organisation and Scouts are expected to wear uniform at Scout meetings and all formal Scout or Scout supported events (of which Remembrance Parades, St George's Day gatherings and the annual District Carol service are assumed). When on outside activities, like hiking, Scouts should expect to wear at least their scout scarves even if other hiking clothing may be recommended for the place and conditions prevailing. (Scout trousers are ideal for hiking . . .)

Parental support:

Our Scout Group depends on Parental support. We encourage parents and guardians to become involved in the Scout Group - in fact without them, we cannot continue to provide a wide range of activities. Most Leaders have, or used to have, children in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers.

All adults in Scouts, whether Leaders or helpers, are volunteers and give their time freely. There is no payment for being a leader, but there is much fun and pleasure in witnessing youngsters mature and making new friendships.

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader or a helper on a regular or occasional basis, please talk to one of the existing Leaders. No previous experience is necessary and training is provided. The amount of time involved could be as little as a couple of hours a week (or more if you have the time!). From time to time we ask for the active involvement of parents as helpers or drivers to enable activities to take place. Parents, Guardians and helpers assisting us do not need to hold DBS (CRB) certificates unless helping in overnight activities, eg camping,

Finance:

Our Scouting activity is funded through subscriptions.

Subscriptions pay for:

- *annual fees to District, County and National headquarters for insurance, and leader training*
- *to the Group to cover the cost of running our headquarters and equipment*
- *to the Troop for the cost of badges, books and activity materials etc.*
- *to subsidise some activities*

Rates are reviewed annually and since from June 2010 have been :

Number of Children Enrolled	Monthly Amount
One	£9.00
Two	£15.00
Three	£21.00

We use a Standing Order system to collect fees. To set up a standing order please use the Standing Order Mandate form included in the forms pack and please, when completed, **give it to your own bank not to us.**

You will also find in the forms pack a Gift Aid form. If you pay the subscription to the Scout Group out of taxed income, the Scout Group can then claim back the tax (because of its charity status). You will appreciate that this is an effective way of boosting group income and maintaining lower rates of subscription. We encourage all eligible parents / guardians to participate in this scheme.

Again, please complete and return the Gift Aid form to one of the Scout Leaders.

Contacts:

Our Leaders in the Scout Troop are:

Name	Address	Postcode	Tel.	E-mail	Role
Geoffrey Scott	Hillcrest, Congleton Edge, Congleton, Cheshire	CW12 3NB	01260 291061	gr_scott@btinternet.com	Scout Leader (SL)
Garreth Davey					Assistant Scout Leader (ASL)
Philip Edmondson					Assistant Scout Leader (ASL)
Avril Grattage					Assistant Scout Leader (ASL)
Jonathan Lockett					Assistant Scout Leader (ASL)
Hannah Scott					Assistant Scout Leader (ASL)
Gordon Nightingale					Section Assistant (SA)

Our Group contacts are:

Name	Address	Postcode	Tel.	E-mail	Role
Christine Scott	Hillcrest, Congleton Edge, Congleton	CW12 3NB	01260 291061	scott_cm@btinternet.com	Group Scout Leader (GSL)
Paul Smallman			01260 290421	paul.smallman72@gmail.com	Group Chair

Care of young people:

Leaders have to look after the youngsters in their charge during Scouting activity.

There are three measures in place to help us achieve this:

First (and as most of you will be aware) it is a legal requirement that anyone who has contact with children must have had a check made with the Disclosure and Barring Service, DBS (formerly Criminal Records Bureau, CRB) against their name.

All Scout Leaders and Section Assistants are subject to DBS (CRB) checks.

Second, as by their very nature, activities are not risk free, the leaders take reasonable steps to minimise risk. Clearly children themselves must be in good health, follow leaders instructions and be suitably dressed to take part in our activities whether inside at our HQ or outside on some adventurous activity. We have a set of safeguarding outlines for adventurous activities that we adhere to and a copy is appended to this letter.

We also ask Parents/Guardians to give permission for the various adventurous activities and repeat this annually to maintain awareness on everyone's part, (*See form 2 in the Forms pack*). In addition we make Parents /Guadians aware of how we store information about Scouts and how photographs etc may be used by asking their permission for both, (*See form 4 in the Forms pack*).

Third, in planning activities we prepare Risk Assessments (RAs) aiming to identify possible dangers and what can be done to minimise them. *By way of example*, we have a Risk Assessment for the Old School Premises and it too is appended to this letter. (It is reviewed regularly).

For activities on and off premises we draw up additional Risk Assessments. If you would like to see any of them, please ask a Scout Leader. If you wish to comment or make any observations on any RAs, again, please speak with a Scout Leader as we are happy to improve them if we can.

Information we need about Scouts:

A pack of forms that supplement this letter is provided which we need to have returned for our records, duly filled in and completed. Please read and complete the following ones in particular for us (if you have not already done so)

General Registration

Outdoor Activities Permission

Appearance and Behaviour Acceptance

Data storage, Photo, Video and web-site Permissions

and give them to a Scout Leader.

If you are a tax payer please do complete the **Gift Aid** form and return that too. We receive useful funds from HMRC at no cost to yourselves this way.

For new Scouts to the Troop, please complete the **Standing Order Mandate** and give it to your **bank**.

Further information for Scouts and recruits:

Attached to this letter are copies of our Safeguarding documents and “Additional Information for Scouts” (and also potential recruits). Scouts should then have all they need to know before deciding to join us.

We prefer potential recruits, whether from Cubs or from outside Scouting, to visit our regular meetings before making a decision to join us.

If there is something about which you wish to know more or which we have not covered here, please contact one of us or our GSL

Yours in Scouting

Geoffrey Scott	SL	Jonathan Lockett	ASL
Avril Grattage	ASL	Philip Edmondson	ASL
Hannah Scott	ASL	Gordon Nightingale	SA

P.S.

There are various Scout websites where you can find all sorts of useful information on Scouting.

It is well worth Scouts making themselves familiar with these ones in particular:

<i>Nationally</i>	www.scouts.org.uk/
<i>County wide</i>	http://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/
<i>District wide</i>	http://www.mcscouts.org.uk/
<i>Our Group</i>	http://www.1stmossleyscoutgroup.org

Safeguarding

Outlines of the safeguards taken for adventurous activities:

Walking activities

All walking activities must be authorised by the Scout Leader or Group Scout Leader. Authorisation is based upon competence of the party leader, planned route, expected weather conditions, capability of the members of the party. The size of the party will be within guidelines set by the Scout Association.

The party leader will have checked the intended environment and relevant weather forecasts before the activity and all equipment before starting. An expedition leader will have arranged an “in-touch” Contact who acts as the link between the expedition party and parents.

Water activities

All water activities must be authorised by the SL or GSL. Water activities will only be undertaken with equipment that has passed its regular check by the district water adviser. All those leading the activity will hold Scout Association authorisation appropriate to the class of water; and the number of craft on the water will not exceed the leaders’ limits, nor be beneath the Scout Association stated minimum.

Children must be able to swim more than 50m fully clothed and stay afloat for 5 minutes in order to participate in water activities. **The activity leader** will have checked all equipment, the intended environment and relevant weather forecasts before the activity starts. He may cancel the activity or forbid individuals to participate.

Camping activities

All camps will be led by a leader who has the appropriate qualification for the type of camp, the age of participants and the time of year. The GSL and the District Commissioner will have been informed of the camp prior to its occurring.

Parents must provide a current health form, all personal medicine and instructions of when and how to take it, and contact telephone numbers for the duration of camp. **The camp leader** will have checked all equipment and the intended environment before the camp. The camp leader will have arranged a nominated “In-touch” Contact who acts as the link between the camp and parents. All communication with camp will be through this Contact.

Other Scouting Activities

A nominated person, authorised by the SL or GSL, will lead all activities. Authorisation is based upon competence of the party leader, planned activity, expected weather conditions, and capability of the members of the party. The size of the party will be within guidelines set by the Scout Association. **The activity leader** will have checked all equipment and the intended environment before the activity starts.

Special Activities

Special activities will only be undertaken with equipment that has passed its annual check and is also deemed fit by the person leading the activity. All those leading the activity will hold Scout Association authorisation for that activity or an appropriate authorisation recognised by the Scout Association. **The activity leader** will have checked all equipment and the intended environment before the activity starts. All visits will be pre-booked by a nominated person, authorised by the SL or GSL. A person authorised by the premises being visited will escort all visits to non-public places. A warranted leader will accompany all visits.

Risk Assessment for Use of Head-quarters:

The premises are clearly defined by walls, some topped with railings or hedges. There is an open vehicle access onto Leek Road and a personal gate also onto Leek Road. The main building consists of two meeting rooms divided by an entrance, passageway and toilets with a kitchen at the end of the passage. Outside, at the rear, is a tarmac play area clearly defined by the walls and fencing. When on-site there is no reason for any Scout to doubt the boundaries and if in any doubt about it they must ask for clarification.

Once scouts have arrived for scout activities, they must remain on-site within the premises' boundaries unless given instruction or permission by a leader to leave the premises.

Risk assessment ratings: Likelihood 3 x Severity 2 = Risk 6: ie **LxS=R** (with summary of "High", "Medium" or "Low")

Hazard	Risk with no control measure LxS=R	Control Measures taken by Scouter-in-Charge	Risk with control measures in place LxS=R	Additional measures to be taken by adults involved	Additional Measures to be taken by participating Scouts	Risk with ALL control measures in place LxS=R
Rushing around and endangering other people in restricted spaces	3 2 6 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running and rushing are not allowed. Before flag-break and after arriving scouts may use back room for playing games in but no running through passages is permitted. The passage between the back room and the entrance passage is <u>only</u> for access to the toilets. Games are to use soft balls only with no throwing permitted. This time before flag break is intended for Patrols to run informal patrol corners work. 	2 2 4 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazards and concerns pointed out. Watchfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding horseplay Thinking Looking out for self AND others 	1 2 2 Low
Outside areas are hard tarmac surfaces - Cuts, grazes, sprains	1 3 3 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning to be given routinely to scouts to look out for themselves and others First aid kit in a known location made known to Scouts and leaders and helpers. 	1 2 2 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that scouts know what they are supposed to be doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding horseplay Thinking 	1 2 2 Low
Kitchen has cooking facilities – burns scalds, cuts. Stores has heavy and rough items.- bruising, scrapes etc	1 3 3 Low 1 2 2 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kitchen and Stores are out of bounds to scouts without specific permission or accompanied by a Leader. Patrol leaders may enter the Stores to retrieve or return light kit – for games etc. Heavy kit is not to be moved by scouts at all 	1 3 3 Low 1 1 1 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that scouts know what they are supposed to be doing Watchfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't break the rules. Avoiding horseplay Thinking Looking out for self AND others 	1 3 3 Low 1 1 1 Low
Ever present danger of injury in games or activities	3 2 6 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kit in a known location to Scouts and Leaders and Helpers. 	2 2 4 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every meeting know where first aid kit is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every meeting know where first aid kit is. 	2 1 2 Low
Children being accosted	1 3 3 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scouts are to remain on-site. Scouts to report any visitors to a Leader and know to retreat inside and/or shout for help if concerned.. Leaders and helpers are usually moving around and available to respond to intruders or calls from scouts 	1 2 2 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigilance maintained Scouts within bounds kept together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying on-site Looking out for self AND others Not going to strangers and advising leaders of visitors Beware of being separated from leaders and other scouts 	1 2 2 Low
Emergencies - fire	1 4 4 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know where scouts leaders and visitors are in the building during activities Advise what to do in emergency – the warnings that will be given 	1 3 3 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice emergency situation drill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of emergency warnings . Leave building but do not leave premises without leaders knowledge 	1 2 2 Low

Additional information for Scouts

More about Scout Meetings:

When you start Scouts you will usually be allocated to a Patrol, which will be your own team. Patrols usually consist of 4 to 6 Scouts and normally each Patrol has a Patrol Leader, PL, (and/or an Assistant Patrol Leader, APL).

The PLs and APLs are responsible for the rest of their Patrol and are expected to be good role models. This responsibility is earned by thinking of others, showing initiative, being generally helpful and by showing a positive attitude generally.

How the Scout Meetings Work:

The meeting starts when a Scout Leaders calls the troop together. Scouts stand quietly at ease, lined up in their Patrols, in a “horseshoe” around the Union flag. They are then brought to “attention” whilst the Union Flag is broken out by a nominated Scout. Everyone salutes the Flag.

At the end of meetings, Scouts gather together again around the flag. Awards, notices and letters are given out and the evening is finished when the flag is lowered.

Badge Work:

Our meetings include a mix of games, badge work and other activities which are, we hope, enjoyable and instructive.

During the time you are at Scouts you will be working towards the Scout Challenges and Activity badges. These are achieved within the planned programme of activities (and in your own time if you are prepared to put extra time in.)

Further down is a diagram below to show where you will wear badges on your uniform.

Our premises and taking care and safety:

It is important therefore that all Scouts understand our HQ premises, the rules for using them safely and the basic precautions we all need to observe in our various activities.

There are three areas for games and activities in our HQ - the two main rooms inside and the play area outside at the back.

When you are taking part in activities and games you need to be aware of how you and others are behaving. Are you and they safe?

All Scouts should be perfectly clear as to the area they are supposed to be in. They should know the safety rules for the premises and keep to them, if necessary stopping others from breaking them. (See *the Risk assessment appended to the letter above*).

If a scout needs to leave the area for a drink or for the toilets they should make sure a Scout Leader is aware of their absence. No one leaves the premises without the knowledge of a Leader

Nearly all games pose some kind of risk of hurt.

Every Scout is expected to take care for him/herself and to look out for the others especially younger and newer scouts. They should know where the first aid is.

Most problems and injuries arise from horseplay and not listening. Scouts should have the sense and courtesy to listen to instructions. They should understand the games/activities and check to see that others do too. *They should ask if they are not clear about what is going on.*

What Scouting is about and how it is organised:

You should know something of what Scouting is all about. In the letter above, there is a brief history plus the Scout promise and law. At some point in our activities we shall talk more about these and probably ask you to find out more for yourselves.

You should also know about how Scouting is organised both in our Group and nationally:

What other sections are there besides "Scouts"?

Do you know who our District Commissioner is and what he/she does?

Who is our Chief Scout and where does he/she fit in?

Some of this is explained below but could you explain it to a new recruit to Scouts?

Some answers . . . and a bit more!

Locally, as here in Mossley, there are **Scout Groups** with sections for all or any of **Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**

Groups are lead by a Group Scout Leader (GSL) (who may not be regularly involved with Beavers, Cubs or Scouts) and section Leaders who are routinely involved with specific sections, ie Beaver Scout Leader (BSL), Cub Scout Leader (CSL) and Scout Leader (SL).

Each section will usually have Assistant Leaders (ABSLs, ACSLs, and ASLs) and/or Section Assistants (SAs) plus, maybe, some Parent helpers.

Who are your Leaders in 1st Mossley?

Every Group has an Executive committee to support it and enable it to operate. It has a Group Chairman, a Group Treasurer and Secretary. The Group Scout Leader, and Leaders of each

Section Leaders are members too, plus perhaps such other members, like Parent representatives, as the committee feels is necessary or helpful.

Groups in an area form a Scout District run by a District Commissioner (DC) and Assistant District Commissioners (ADCs), one for each of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. There is also a District Explorer Scout Commissioner to help Explorer Units which are run from the District. Explorer units are usually based locally with, but are not part of, Scout Groups. Each has its own Leader (ESL) and assistant leaders (AESLs).

There will be other advisers too, encouraging and helping specific types of activity eg camping, water activities, hill walking, skiing, shooting etc. and usually there is a District Chaplain.

The District has its own Executive committee with a District Chairman and is made up a bit like the Scout Groups Executive.

Districts are grouped to make up Counties and they are organised in similar way to Districts, that is with a County Commissioner and Assistant County Commissioners and its own County Executive.

Counties come under a **National structure** with a National Commissioner, Assistants and a National Executive whose Chairman is the **Chief Scout**.

This is a brief description of the basic organisation of Scouting. The whole structure including how it is to operate (and indeed directions for almost everything carried out in Scouting) is laid down in a book called **Policy Organisation and Rules (POR)**.

Ask to see a copy or, better still, go on-line to download it (pdf format) for yourself. POR is routinely updated and is available to anyone who wishes to see for themselves.

All these people and the POR are there to enable Scouting to happen.

Are you going to join in and make full use of it all ?

Where Badges go

