



## South West Notts District Explorer Scouts

# Information for prospective Explorer Scouts and their parents

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### How do I find out more?

Speak to any Leader in the District, or contact the District Explorer Scout  
Commissioner, Colyn Kemp, on 0115 8771565

or drop a note to: [colyn.kemp@ntlworld.com](mailto:colyn.kemp@ntlworld.com)

or visit: <http://swnottexplorers.escouts.net/index.htm>

or visit: <http://www.nottinghamshire-scouts.com/explorerscouts/index.html>

Registered Charity no. 1073964

### **Who are Explorer Scouts?**

Explorer Scouts are young people, usually aged between 14 and 18 years old. They make up the fourth Section of the Scouting family.

### **When and where do Explorers meet?**

There are many types of Explorer Scout Units, some are linked to local Scout Groups, others are based around different activities. Not all Units meet each week, because explorers will often be out and about at weekends or in the holidays doing activities. There will be times when young people will be busy doing other things such as exams, and being an Explorer Scout will have to fit around these. Explorers can go to any or all of the meetings in the District. The units in the S W Notts district are:

**Pioneer ESU** - meet on Monday evenings at Christchurch, Chilwell

**Armstrong ESU** - meet on Wednesday evenings in Chilwell Depot

**Magellan ESU** - meet on Thursday evenings in Beeston

**Discovery Water Activities ESU** - meet on various days in Beeston or on Barton Island in the Trent depending on the weather and time of year!

**The Young Leader ESU** – a virtual unit that supports Explorers working with other sections.

We aim to establish units in Bramcote, Stapleford, Toton and Trowell when there is the demand, enough leaders and a suitable venue.

### **What do Explorers do?**

That's up to the Explorers, really - the young people in each Unit will help to plan their own programme of activities, and will also get involved in organising events. Here are some examples of the activities that units have enjoyed as part of a varied programme: Pioneering, Swimming, Wide games, Debating, Cinema trips, Sailing, helping out at the District Scout Camp, Barbecue and Cocktails (non-alcoholic, of course!)

### **What about Badges and stuff?**

Explorers wear uniform on formal occasions like St George's Day parade. Through the weekly programme, you'll be able to gain activity badges while working towards obtaining the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and of course, the Queen's Scout Award - the highest award for young people in Scouting. While you're achieving these awards, you can also complete the requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. There are 14 Activity Badges to have a go at, and several more Group Awards to earn.

Uniform (navy trousers/skirt with brown shirt/blouse) can be obtained from [www.outdoors.ltd.uk](http://www.outdoors.ltd.uk) or locally from:

D & P Schoolwear, 16- 18 Maid Marion Way, Nottingham. 0115 947 5128

Morleys, 66 Rolleston Drive, Arnold, Nottingham. 0115 920 4111

Our district necker is "scout purple" – ask your leader for one!

### **Are there some District and County activities?**

Yes - as an Explorer Scout, you will get the chance to work with other Explorer Scouts in your District and County, not just your own Unit. By doing this, you will get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones your Unit organises. For instance, endurance go-karting and canoeing courses.

### **What is the Young Leaders' Scheme?**

The Young Leaders' Scheme is just one of the exciting programme elements in the Explorer Scout section. All leaders in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section who are between the ages of 14 and 18 must be members of a Young Leaders Unit. They are Explorer Scouts who choose to devote a large proportion of their time in Scouting to service in another section. 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. The scheme also helps them fulfil the service elements of their awards.

### **How much does it cost?**

Subscriptions to Explorers Scouts in South West Notts have been set at £6 per calendar month, payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Members of Discovery Water Activities Unit pay £8 per month, reflecting the additional cost of the water activities that they take part in. These rates haven't changed since Explorers started in the District in 2003. Cheques should be made payable to *S W Notts Explorer Scouts*, however ideally, subs should be paid by Standing Order - please speak to a leader to get the details, or download a form from our website.

Many of the activities that Explorers will want to do (camping, climbing, 10-pin bowling, going to the cinema etc) will incur additional costs, which those taking part will be expected to meet.

### **Can I Gift Aid my child's subscriptions?**

YES! Please do! If you are a UK taxpayer, Scouting can claim back a further 28% of your subscriptions, helping to keep costs low. Ask your leader for the appropriate form, or download it from our website.

### **What can you tell me about the Leaders?**

Each unit is led by a team of Leaders, who will have access to extensive training to equip them to run safe and exciting activities for the young people in the unit. All the adults working in Explorer Scout Units are volunteers who give up their spare time to provide good quality programmes for the members of their units. We're always looking for additional help so if you think you might like to get involved, please call the number overleaf.