

CC Chat

The annual census has now been completed and shows that across the County we have retained more than 80% of our young people over the last year - which considering the circumstances is amazing! Despite the difficulties we've seen 8 Groups increase their number of young people and Explorer Units opening - which is fantastic news! We also had had three groups that have been awarded financial support from the national recovery fund.

Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment in a very difficult year - it is really appreciated.

It was lovely to see lots of you attending the conference at the weekend. We hope all those that attended found it useful - across the day we looked at how we can make the volunteer journey a positive one for new volunteers. Every volunteer role in the County plays an important part in the experience our young people receive and because of that we need to ensure every role goes through the correct appointments process, knows the role they are taking on and has a good induction.

By getting the starting point of our volunteer journey correct we ensure volunteers are engaged from the start, feel comfortable with what they have taken on, feel valued and supported and are acknowledged and thanked for their contribution.

Going forward we want to ensure the same consistent message is delivered across the County - we want to promote the positives in what has been achieved - despite face to face scouting stopping - you've still delivered amazing Scouting, have found new & innovative ways to do that and young people have connected, gained badges and had fun with their friends.

We also need to ensure that right from the start we are clear on our expectations - DBS checks need completing in a timely basis, training needs to be completed to ensure the safety of those participating, referees are needed and new volunteers need to have an independent conversation with our appointments advisory committee. And it's a quick, easy process to join if all the information is collected at the start on a adult information form and passed onto the appointments secretary. All the details behind these points were covered during the conference to help enable everyone to help new volunteers into their role - links to all the content can be found on the next page.

So please take the time to think back to when you joined and how you felt - if you had a good experience - please help to repeat it for others. If not, please take a look at the conference detail and try to ensure that others don't have your experience.

I know the last year has been a challenge - but please remember the elements you are looking forward to getting back to - the camps, the activities, the smiles on young people's faces and use those as the selling points for new volunteers, help them through the appointment process and allow them to join our Scouting family!

Face to face scouting

As we look to return to face to face scouting on 29 March, as before please ensure you only do what you feel comfortable doing. Whilst it's amazing to think we can get back to face to face Scouting, virtual scouting has proved to work and if you prefer to continue with this for a while or run a blended programme of virtual and face to face that is OK.

Please also share your return to face to face scouting on our social media pages - it will be lovely to see what outdoor activities you choose to do.

Risk assessments can continue to be submitted for face to face activities via the SmartSheet form, please bear in mind that Districts will prioritise risk assessments for outdoor activities over indoor activities to begin with to ensure that all Groups can get back to scouting as soon as possible. If you need any support with your return please let your District Teams know.

Thank you again for all your continued support and commitment to keeping Scouting going in Oxfordshire in the last year.

Wendy Tatham

County Commissioner

Jack Hill Trophy

Jack Hill was an Oxfordshire Scout, Leader and Commissioner in Oxfordshire.

Unfortunately, he lived his whole life suffering with a severe heart condition. Jack was determined to develop and enjoy his life, his family and friends and trying to live up to his Scout Promise.

After he passed, his family donated a memorial trophy to be awarded annually to a member aged between 6-25 who has shown the courage to remain positively active in scouting whilst suffering from physical, emotional or social difficulties.

The award is for anyone who has shown the quality of courage in the face of difficulty, physically or mentally, during last year. Individuals do not need to have achieved high levels of badge work, the award is for those who have truly enjoyed Scouting, through their attendance, willingness to help and their interaction with their fellow members.

Nominations for 2021 Jack Hill Award close on Friday 12th March 2021. [Nominate here.](#)

Awards Day

We are still taking your nominations for awards day. Nominations close on Friday 12th March 2021.

You can nominate or [download the multiple nomination form here.](#)

Missing awards

Do you think you are missing an award? We would like to help. We are keen for all our volunteers to be recognised for the length of service they do. Sometimes records can have missing data and we want to get that fixed. [Log your missing award here.](#)

Conference Feedback

Attended the conference at the weekend? We would love to hear from you with your feedback. [You can complete our survey here.](#)

Volunteer Journey

Missed our conference? No problem, You can access the [slides here!](#) The recordings will be added later in the week.

Welcome to the Team!

I'd like to welcome Lucy Kennett to the staff team. Lucy joins us as our District Administrator. Lucy's role is to provide essential admin support with the appointments process, but also with District Secretary based tasks in some of our Districts. Lucy's role plays a key part in ensuring our volunteer journey is well supported.

Welcome to the team!



Stay in the loop with all the latest news!